**{VACATION LOG}**

**Destination:** St. George, Utah

**Dates:** October 14-17, 2010

**Travelers:** Dad, Mom & Ella

We had originally planned to go the Disneyland in October, but we’ve been dealing with some behavioral issues with Ella and decided to postpone our trip for a bit. We needed a break though, so took a mini vacation to St. George instead.

**What we did:**

*Thursday*

* Arrived in St. George later than expected due to construction.
* Ella did so well on the drive, we told her she could choose what we had for dinner. She wanted pizza, of course. We went to Pizza Factory.
* Shopped for groceries at Lyn’s Market.
* Went swimming.
* Ella picked out The *Cat in the Hat* from Red Box, so she and Dad watched it on the big TV downstairs while Mom read.

*Friday*

* Searched for crystal rocks in the desert for about three and a half hours. Our friends had told us about the place. The directions were wrong because St. George is building a new airport and we would have had to drive right through it. By the time we were done, we had three different sets of directions.
* Had lunch at Five Guys.
* It was milkshake day, so we went to Coldstone. Lynn and I split at chocolate malt with almonds and Ella had her usual pink ice cream with sprinkles.
* Ran into our old neighbor from Pleasant Grove, Laura Lewis, and all of her daughters/daughters-in-law. We talked for awhile and had planned to stop by their home (they moved to St. George), but ended up running out of time.
* Went swimming.
* Mom went shopping while Dad and Ella swam. Bought some black frames and hair product for Ella.
* Picked up *How to Train Your Dragon* from Red Box. Watched together as a family. We loved it!

*Saturday*

* More searching for rocks, but still no success. Drove through a neighborhood I’d seen on the way in. The houses were unique and delightful. We loved them.
* Shopped at the outlet mall. Ella convinced Dad to buy her Twinkle Toe Skechers. Didn’t take much convincing. He thought it was so funny that she knew what they were and kept telling us, “I *have* to have these!” She also got a swim noodle and a new shirt.
* Ate lunch at Brick Oven.
* It was cupcake day, so we went to 25 Main and bought yummy cupcakes. Mom chose a coconut one, Dad chose peanut butter and chocolate and Ella chose chocolate.
* Stopped by Target for a few items.
* Had a family swim at the pool.
* Dad and Ella watched *Diego’s Great Adventure*. Ella chose it at the Red Box and Mom cannot stand anything Dora related so she sat this one out.

*Sunday*

* Cleaned the condo and traveled home.

**Favorite memories:**

*Ella’s funnies:*

* Dad got out of the car in the middle of the desert for a little “break”. Ella wanted to know what he was doing so she looked out the window.

Ella: (in the most *disgusted* voice) What??? Dad is going potty in the dirt? He is *not* an animal!

* Ella was tired of looking for the rocks and just wanted to go swimming.

Ella: I am a fish…get me back in that water!

* Seeing Ella so relaxed and having fun.
* Having Ella come up to me and grab my legs super, super tight and tell me, “I love you *so,so* much!”
* Lynn and I unplugging from computers, phones, cameras, everything. I only took 12 photos the entire trip. Okay, mostly because I kept forgetting my camera at the house.
* Coming home and having Madi run out of the house yelling, “Gamma, gamma!” and giving me a huge hug.

**Least favorite memories:**

* Sitting for an hour in a construction zone both directions.

**Things to remember:**

* On our way home, I packed Ella a snack bucket—an apple, whole wheat fishies, string cheese, etc. She loved being able to choose what to eat and we didn’t hear, “I’m hungry”, once during our trip home.