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See Mommy Run

With tots in tow, area moms stretch their legs and bond

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Play groups with a purpose aren't that unusual. Most of the time, however, the purported purpose is to enhance the children's environment. Whether parents want to help their offspring develop social skills they can carry with them into preschool, or nudge them along the road to becoming baby Einsteins, the children are usually the primary focus of the gatherings.

One organization is hoping to turn that premise on its side. See Mommy Run aims to help mothers (and dads) who share a passion for running to get together and bring their tots along for a ride as well. Exercising and sharing parenting tips are the draw for a local group that meets regularly at Centennial Park for a jog around the lake.

"We have both runners and walkers," said Aggie Wojdon. "We meet at Centennial, and maybe the walkers do one lap, and we (runners) might do two laps. And then we meet up at the playground and just play."



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Left to Right: Lisa Juliet, Aggie Wojde Brody, and Andrea Ashley, take a brea their weekly run.

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Wojdon, who lives in Ellicott City, has been an avid runner since her teens. "In high college I did track and field and cross-country," she explained. She continued to ru graduated, noting that she made an effort to run approximately four times a week was pregnant.

After her son Brody was born, however, Wojdon started looking around for a group shared her interest in running. "I was surfing the net and found www.seeMOMMYrusaid, "and I created one here." Not only did Wojdon start a group in Howard Count an employment ad put out by the organization and now works for See Mommy Runassociate.

Wojdon stressed that athletic ability is not a prerequisite for joining the group. "Al want to emphasize that fitness ability is not a requirement. It's making that commthere every week. With a lot of moms, they're just coming to have a fun time outs kids," she noted.

Ozlen Luznar is one of the regulars who became hooked on running with the group, first she was hesitant about coming. "I liked running just outside my house," comm who lives in Catonsville, "and at first it was hard, getting into the car and driving, minutes. I was, like, I could do it outside my house."

She points to the camaraderie she shares with the others as a reason for returning



Park over and over. "Running was never the only focus," she said. "It was somethir shared, but there was a lot of tips that we shared with each other. We were all firs mothers, and most had eating issues, sleeping issues that we wanted to talk about.

Like Wojdon, Luznar has been an avid runner for a long time. She began running in found, to her surprise, that she really enjoyed running long distances. She has ente of races, including metric marathons (app. 16 miles) in Annapolis and Columbia. "T just to finish," she noted. "It was fun and I liked the t-shirts. The scenery can be repretty, especially in the fall."

Luznar started pushing for more than just the once-a-week Wednesday meetings, a group has several core members who also run on Fridays. Two weeks ago, Luznar hababy, a little girl named Emine who will be joining big brother Bobby on mom's jog ran up until I was 34 weeks pregnant," said Luznar. "I already got my double-jogge Mother's Day gift from my husband."

Wojdon notes that joining is free and that the www.seemommyrun.com website is navigate. "It's great if you want to meet other moms without spending time away! Motherhood is the biggest network around," she added.



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