

Long Island parents use the arts to teach and entertain kids



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Some parents relax by collapsing on the couch. Others unwind by doing something a bit more creative.

These six [Long Island](#) moms and dads write or perform in their free time, some even turning their talents into a new career.

Michele Purcell

Kids: Marc, 9, and Daniel, 6

Community: Glen Head

Creative endeavor: "Music by Mommies: Songs for Your Busy Day," CD

Cost: \$11.99 on cdbaby.com

Target age: Toddler, preschool and early elementary

Web site: musicbymommies.com

Purcell's sons are both on the autism spectrum, and she says she noticed that they responded well to music. She plays keyboards and put an ad on Craigs List to find someone to write lyrics for her melodies. She teamed with Barbara Fine Buxbaum of Chappaqua to write songs meant to motivate kids, especially those with special needs, through the stages of their days. Titles include "Get Dressed" and "The Bath Song." Both moms' children join in the singing on the latter tune.