



STAFF PHOTO BY JOE SARNO

The team behind children's adventures at Zayna's Cuts for Kids in the Pompton Lakes downtown includes (from left) Nidaa Bayan, Nina Abidah, Moody Haopshy, Maisha Bayan, Denean Sportelli, Hallah Shawwaf and Dallal Bayan.

POMPTON LAKES

Haircuts are fun at Zayna's

From castles to racecars to safaris, shear fun is in store for clients

BY DONNA ROLANDO
Special from Suburban Trends

With so much adventure on tap at Zayna's Cuts for Kids, children can easily forget they're there for a haircut.

But that's the idea.

From toys to video games to children's favorite films, Zayna's (in the heart of the downtown at 122 Wanaque Ave.) is big on fun - and big on distraction - to take the nervous edge off that children's haircut.

"Distraction is key," agreed Kate Maglio of Ringwood, who brings two boys, ages 4 and 2.5, for what she knows will be a haircut that's hassle-free and a real smile builder right down to the farewell lollipop and balloon.

The adventure begins swiftly.

Children can choose from three fantasy stations designed to carry them away to a land of make believe while the stylist gently trims their locks.

"Boys love the NASCAR theme. They imagine themselves racing," said Maisha Bayan, who partnered with her brother Moody Haopshy to open the shop nearly one year ago.

Many girls set their heart on the princess theme, while everyone loves the safari setting where stuffed jungle animals greet them on their striped jungle jeep.

While boys and girls might have their favorites, Bayan said they can pick what they like and there are some girls who like the NASCAR and boys who like the castle.

To add to their experience, Zayna's has an extensive library of films, from Baby Einstein to Thomas the Tank Engine, and Bayan says, "If we don't have it, children give us a list of what we're missing and we'll have it the next time they come."

The theme stations are designed

for children up to age 7 but older kids don't miss out on the action. They too can see movies from 32-inch flat screen TVs or throw themselves into a Game Cube or X-Box 360 video game.

Besides haircuts utilizing organic products, Zayna's is also the place to go for up-dos for that special occasion like a dance recital and it's ideal for when children are in a wedding party and need a polished look.

"We've done quite a few mother/daughter, father/son haircuts as well," Bayan said.

But the shop won't do any hair coloring, keeping itself free from chemicals for the children.

When it's not their turn with the stylist, children can play with dinosaurs, adding to an artist's front-window prehistoric setting; guiding their trains over the tracks in the center of the store; or perhaps picking out a special gift from Zayna's colorful store.

While children get their cuts, Bayan said, "Parents can relax, have a cup of coffee, it's complimentary."

Because a visit to Zayna's is so much fun, it's also a "huge hit" for birthday parties, Bayan said.

"For August we have five scheduled. We close shop and it's a private party," she said.

Girls can get their makeup done, hair styled, and nails polished. Boys get colored gel and tattoos, she explained.

Everyone can dance or do the limbo under the disco ball too.

They can snack on pizza, ice cream and cake. Zayna's also offers a gift registry to take the worry out what to buy the birthday boy or girl.

Since Zayna's opened in Pompton last September, more than 2,000 customers have been served.

Bayan said she and her brother took what they learned from more

than 13 years in the children's salon business and infused the best parts into their own store.

"This is our world. We don't think kids should go to a grownup salon," Bayan said.

They find parents are willing to travel for this fun approach to a haircut. Maglio, mentioned above, was originally a customer in Bergen County. Bayan's daughter, Dallal, also works there and thinks the fact that it is a family business appeals to many. She brings out the shop's eagerness to help with school and church fundraisers and take an active role in the community.

"We've been blessed so we want to help especially if it's for children," she said. "We want to be active in the community and not just a hair salon."

One way it lends a hand is serving as a registered salon for the non-profit Locks of Love organization. Zayna's provides complimentary 10-inch or longer haircuts, as well as packaging and shipping of the child's hair donation. Typical are about three to five Locks of Love cuts monthly for children with medical hair loss.

Another community service - and new this summer - is a free hair-care tips program offered to surrounding daycare centers to teach kids how to prevent lice and to care for their hair. Besides a demonstration, children receive goodie bags with their very own combs.

For more information about Zayna's, visit on the Web at zaynascutsforkids.com or 973-831-2390. Appointments are preferred but not necessary.

Zayna's is open seven days as follows: Monday-Tuesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Argus publishes news that has been seen in *Suburban Trends*, covering community groups, scouts, clubs, and schools in: Butler, Kinnelon, Lincoln Park, Pequannock, Pompton Lakes, Pompton Plains, and Riverdale. For more information, call Bryan LaPlaca at 973-283-5612 or send an e-mail to: argus@northjersey.com.

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