

# Oogles-N-Googles Is Oodles of Fun

By Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

Devin and 10 of his pals went on a dinosaur hunt for his birthday recently. It was not a quiet adventure.

With whoops and hollers, screeches and screams, the youngsters climbed trees, swam lakes, scaled cliffs and cut a swath through the jungle. Along the way, they found fossils and saw volcanoes explode, but they never left the room.

Welcome to an Oogles-N-Googles birthday party at The Children's Museum.

The museum has partnered with the Indianapolis company to be the official party-meister for kids. All it takes is a phone call and the rest is handled by someone else's parents.

Oogles-N-Googles is the brainchild of Kevin and Dana Mendell, the parents of three young children. The couple grew more and more frustrated when trying to hire entertainers for their kids' birthday parties. All they found were people who provided "the same old thing" when it



Tanun Koneru was the handsome prince of a party on the theme of *Once Upon a Time*.

came to party themes and activities, Kevin Mendell said.

The Mendells developed parties for their kids, which were a hit with the parents of guests, too. The idea grew into a

business that launched about two years ago as Oogles-N-Googles.

The parties are developed around story lines or themes. The current repertoire includes: *I Spy Detective School*, *Tea Time*, *Down on the Farm*, *Rev Your Engines*, *Wizard School*, *Super Heroes*, *Pop Rock Party*, *Teddy Bear Tea*, *Dinosaur* and *Once Upon a Time*.

The partnership, which was launched in June, has been a real boon for the museum, said Megan Flaherty, associate special events assistant. Although the museum offered parties, the party-givers (parents) had to do all the work themselves.

Now, Oogles-N-Googles coordinates all the parties and provides the food, favors and fun. "The Children's Museum is the largest in the country, and it should be famous for its birthday parties, too," Flaherty said. Call (317) 843-9978 to schedule your party.

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