



(front row, l-r) Mary and Anna; (back row, l-r) Michael, John, and Esther.  
Photo by Martin Boling

## Ivy Tech Summer Camps Inspire, Inform Youth

**A**nna Asplund enjoys the feeling of molding clay. She also loves drawing, especially animals, plants—pretty much any living objects.

“I like to make everything as perfect as possible,” says Anna, an 11-year-old art-lover who is in the 5th grade at Childs Elementary School.

Anna has been developing her artistic skills with the help of Ivy Arts for Kids summer camps since she was 5. Her mother, Esther Asplund, says Anna and her siblings—Mary, 11, Michael, 13, and John, 15—have all attended, and have always looked forward to, the different summer camps offered by Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington.

“The quality has been good,” Asplund says. “I enroll them as soon as possible because they want to make sure they’re in these camps. They like this summer camp better than other activities or camps they’ve tried.”

Asplund considers the sessions a good investment because the camp teachers are professionals, classes are small, and materials are provided. She says her children have spent more concentrated time on artwork like pottery than they have in other programs, and they have had the opportunity to try out new technologies, such as 3-D printing and robotics.

Her son John, 15, a Bloomington High School South freshman, is considering architecture as a career. He recently participated in sessions on 3-D modeling and design.

“I like designing all sorts of things—buildings, cars, floor plans for houses,” John says. While at camp, he designed what he calls a “dream home” and a car. He also built a small 3-D replica of the One World Trade Center Freedom Tower in New York City. “It’s still sitting on one of my shelves at home,” he says.

Asplund says the camps inspire her children and supplement their education. “It’s something unusual they don’t get to do during the school year,” she says. “They also meet a lot of people from other schools.”

For more than a decade, Ivy Tech has been offering a growing array of summer camps to youth ages 4 through 18 through its Center for Lifelong Learning. There are one- and two-week programs, with both full-day options as well as morning and afternoon sessions.

Besides Ivy Arts for Kids, there is also College for Kids & Teens. Both will be held at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center. Camp Invention-Fast Forward will be held at the Indiana Center for the Life Sciences. And three programs—DramatiKIDS, Laugh Factory, and Musical Theatre Camp—will be held in cooperation with Bloomington

Playwrights Project, at the BPP theater, 107 W. 9th St.

Curtis Smith, Ivy Tech Center for Lifelong Learning director, says providing summer camps to youth is a critical part of the college’s mission and helps make the Bloomington community an attractive place to live. “We want the community to get engaged and connected to everything Ivy Tech has to offer,” he says.

In addition to teaching youth, Smith says the camps help them start thinking early about pursuing higher education and help to remove the intimidation factor about attending college.

“We want to instill in people a love of learning,” Smith says. “We want kids to have this love of learning for whatever they do. If you can get started young, even at age 4, they can realize, ‘Hey, I like learning.’”

For more information or to register for camp, visit [ivytech.edu/youth](http://ivytech.edu/youth).

### YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

Morning & afternoon options for ages 4-18



[ivytech.edu/youth](http://ivytech.edu/youth)