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Start the journey

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Movies for Families

Notes:

- -1- Listed with each title are the ages at which my kids saw them.
- -2- The majority of the movies would also be good for kids above these ages. In fact, most of the movies were originally intended for adults or for all ages.
- -3- The movies must be watched along with parents because parents will need to explain the plots. Given that I explained what was going on during the movies, my kids loved most of them. However, they would not have been able to follow some of them on their own.

Adventures of Robin Hood, The (1938) (5 & 7 - Though my sensitive 7 year-old did not like the fights despite their being fairly benign)

American in Paris, An (6 & 8; was enjoyable, but somewhat lower on the list than most of the others. Last dance scene was way too long.)

Anchors Aweigh (6 & 8)

Andre (7 & 9; good.)

Andy Griffith Show, The (1960's TV Series; 8 & 10)

Annie (version starring: Aileen Quinn, Albert Finney, Carol Burnett) (almost 8 & 10)

Annie Get Your Gun (6 & 8)

Apple Dumpling Gang (6 & 8 – though 8 year-old bothered by shooting scenes despite their being pretty tame)

Apple Dumpling Gang Rides Again (9 & 11)

Aristocats (almost 8 & 10)

Around the World in 80 Days (1956 version) (8 & 10)

Babe (7)

Babe, Pig in the City (8; Skip the lengthy scene when the monkey has the pig go thru the fence. Skip this because the pig gets chased by scary dogs.)

Babes on Broadway (Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland; 8 & 10)

Babes in Arms (Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland; 8 & 10)

Bank Dick (W.C. Fields; 10 yrs.)

Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer, The (6 & 8)

Bedknobs and Brooksticks (7&9)

Best Foot Forward (1943; My 8 year-old liked it.)

Bewitched (1960's TV series; 8 & 10)

Brigadoon (6 & 8, but 8 year-old said that she was a bit confused. Maybe wait until 10?)

Bringing Up Baby (Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant; 6 & 8)

Buster Keaton movies

- **-Balloonatic** (20 mins. Didn't hold together as a story like others of his. But my kids enjoyed it; 7&9)
- -General, The (8 & 10; My 10 year-old found the shooting scenes too tense. But I disagree. Was not too much for this age.)
- **-Neighbors** (20 min.s) (7&9)
- -Our Hospitality (8&10)
- -Seven Chances (7&9)
- -Sherlock Jr. (6 & 8)
- -Steamboat Bill, Jr. (9. I thought started slow but 9 y/o liked it.)
- Cat From Outer Space, The (7 & 9 Needed fair amount of explanation for first 15 minutes. Then better.)

Charlie Chaplin Movies

- -Circus, The (9 & 11)
- -Gold Rush, The (The 1942 version that includes narration. Very good. Definitely enjoyed it at 6 &8.)
- -Great Dictator, The (7 & 9)

Chicken Run (7)

- Country Bear, The (8 & 10. Kids loved it, but note that IMDB.com shows a vote of 3.8 out of 10. I didn't view the movie. Kids saw it while was out of town.)
- **Court Jester, The** (Starring Danny Kaye) (Wonderful. We all loved it. Good for all ages [w/ some explanation]. 6&8)
- **Dancing Lady** (Starring Joan Crawford, Clark Gable. Early scenes a bit risque, but at 6 & 8 kids liked the movie.)

Date With Judy, A (7 & 9)

Destry Rides Again (6 & 8)

Dick Van Dyke Show, The (1960's TV; almost 9 & 11)

Doctor Dolittle (Version w/ Rex Harrison) (7)

Easter Parade (6&8)

Elf (9 & 11)

Father Goose (Cary Grant) (6&8)

Fern Gully (5; I was terribly bored, but 5 year-old liked it.)

Fiddler on the Roof (5 & 7; Wonderful movie, but parts not really okay for this age. Have to skip at least 3 scenes: the nightmare, the Russians attacking the village, the father rejecting the daughter when she intermarries)

Fly Away Home (excellent; ?7&9?)

Fortune Cookie (1966; 8 & 10) Really made for adults. However, my kids liked it. Definitely needed explanation at parts. Kids at this age can't watch it alone. Also, [1] had one or two risqué parts – but went over my kids' heads, and [2] had a bar-fight (not too terrible).

Flubber (6 & 8)

Freaky Friday (Starring Barbara Harris & Jodie Foster. The newer version has swears - so stick to this older version. 7&9. My 9 year-old was bored w/ start, loved 2nd half.)

Free Willy. (?7&9?)

Gangs All Here, The (7 & 9)

Gilligan's Island (TV series; 8 & 10)

Girl Crazy (Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland; 10)

Great Race, The (Starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon; 7&9)

Guys and Dolls (7 & 9)

Gus (Starring Don Knotts; almost 8 & 10)

Harvey Girls, The (starring Judy Garland. 6 & 8. We all loved it).

Hello Dolly (Good at 5 & 7 yrs, but needed some explanation)

Help! (Beatles; 7 & 9)

Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo (1977; Sequel to Herbie Rides Again; 9 & 11)

Herbie Rides Again (1974; Sequel to Love Bug; 8 & 10)

His Girl Friday (7 & 9)

Horton Hears a Who (Starring Jim Carrey) (8)

Houseboat (?7?, My son liked it, but I found it somewhat slow.)

Hugo (This movie is PG. My almost-9-year-old liked it, but required explanation. Also brief frightening dream sequence. Perhaps better for 11 or 12 year-old)

I Love Lucy – TV Series (7,8,9 & 9,10,11)

If I'm Lucky (1946; 8 & 10)

In The Navy (Starring Abbott & Costello) (7 3/4 & 9 3/4)

Incredible Adventures of Wallace & Gromit (7; 7 or maybe 8 might be upper limit)

Incredible Mr. Limpet, The (?6&8?, very good)

It Happened One Night (7 & 9, Kids voted 'yes,' but I found it slow)

It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World (8 & 10)

It's Always Fair Weather (6 & 8, kids [and I] loved it. Needed explanation. Fine at this age, but maybe leave for couple years older)

Jetsons, The (1962 TV Series; 8 & 10)

Jungle Book, The (The original - approx 1960's; 7 years-old)

King and I, The (8 & 10; My kids both voted "yes," but said that it should be for a couple years older. My opinion: good, but slower than other musicals we've seen.)

Lassie Come Home (At almost 7, my son voted 'yes.' However, we had to fast forward thru some. 9 year-old daughter votes a big 'No.' Great ending. But otherwise a series of very sad [and sometimes scary] events. I don't recommend -- but, again, my son said 'yes.')

Laurel & Hardy Movies

- -Music Box, The (6 & 8, loved it)
- **-Big Noise, The** (7 & 9)
- -Sons Of The Desert (9 & 11)

Lavender Hill Mob, The (1951; 8 & 10)

Lloyd, Harold

- -Girl Shy (8 & 10)
- -Safety Last! (6 & 8)

628,4848 Love Bug, The (1968, Note: has a sequel called "Herbie Rides Again;" 7 & 9)

Love Finds Any Hardy (6 & 8)

Ma & Pa Kettle Movies

- **-Egg and I, The** (the 1st Ma-and-Pa-Kettle movie) (8&10)
- -Ma & Pa Kettle Go To Town (1950) (8&10)

Madagascar (7 & 9; I didn't see this one)

Madagascar 2 (8; I didn't see this one)

Marx Brothers (kids liked them. I was bored.)

- -Animal Crackers (9 & 11)
- -Horse Feathers (9 & 11)
- **-Duck Soup** (7 & 9)
- -Night At The Opera, A (8 & 10)
- -Room Service (9 & 11)

Meet Me in St. Louis (Judy Garland. 6 & 8).

Milo and Otis (5 year-old liked it. 7 year-old was bored. I couldn't tolerate it.)

Molly: An American Girl on the Home Front (8 & 10; My 10 year-old daughter loved it. 8 year-old son said better for maybe 6 y/o. May be a movie more for girls.)

Monkey Business (6 year-old liked it. My 8 year-old did not see it. I was bored.)

Mr. Bean (British TV series - approx 1989-1991) (6-7 & 8 -9)

Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House (7 & 9 year-olds liked it. I was a bit bored.)

Mr. Deed Goes to Town (1936 [not 2002]; 6 & 8)

Muppets

[1979] **Muppet Movie, The** (11)

[1981] **Great Muppet Caper, The** (9 & 11)

[1984] Muppets Take Manhattan, The (9 & 11)

[1992] Muppets Christmas Carol, The (9 & 11)

[1996] Muppet Treasure Island (9 & 11)

Music Man, The [1965] (6 & 8)

My Dog the Thief (almost 8 & 10) [might be alphabetized under "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color" or "TV series documentary 1954–1990"]

My Fair Lady (7 & 9)

National Velvet (5 & 7)

Oklahoma! (?7 & 9?)

On The Town (6 & 8)

Over The Hedge (8 & 10; I didn't see this one)

Pajama Game, The (7&9)

Peter Pan [1953] (6 & 8 loved it, but I was just a bit bored -- not much, though)

Pete's Dragon (not sure - I think around 7 & 9 -- may 6 & 8)

Pirate, The [Judy Garland, Gene Kelly] (6&8)

Pollyanna [1960] (9&11)

Puss In Boots [2011] (8 & 10)

Royal Wedding (6 & 8)

Samantha An American Girl Holiday (almost 8 & 10)

Seabiscuit (or "The Story of Seabiscuit" with Shirley Temple) (6 & 8)

1848

Secret Garden (1993; 9 & 11)

Seabiscuit (or "The Story of Seabiscuit" with Shirley Temple) (6 & 8)

Secret Of Roan Inish, The (9 & 11)

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (6 & 8 yrs old)

Shaggy Dog (version with Fred MacMurray) (7 &9)

Singin' In The Rain (6 & 8)

Sound of Music (5 & 7)

Stagecoach (6 & 8 good. Note though: [1] has a shooting scene, and [2] skip one 15-second part where guy has gun to woman's head [she ends up fine])

Summer Magic (1963; 8 & 10; My kids watched with grandparents. I did not see it, so can't give opinion. They liked it.)

Swing Time (Fred Astaire, 10)

Swingin' In The Pink: The Pink Panther classic cartoon collection; v. 4 (8 & 10)

Swiss Family Robinson. (at 5 & 7, kids loved it)

Take Me Out To The Ball Game (1949; 8 years old)

That Darn Cat! (Hayley Mills) (almost 8)

Three Stooges (7 & 9 loved it)

Had Curly:

Lacked Curly:

-Disorder in Court

-Brideless Groom

-Malice in the Palace

Toby Tyler (8 & 10; For few minutes, viewer believes that the loved monkey is shot dead. Turns out fine.)

Top Hat (I don't recall ages. Maybe 5 & 7. Great dance sequences but weak plot.)

Ugly Dachshund, The (1966; 8 & 10; Kids enjoyed, but I was bored.)

VeggieTales - Sing Alongs - Dance of the Cucumber (5 & 7, Kids enjoyed. But no story. I thought only so-so.)

Waltons - TV series approx 1971-1981

- Season 1, Episode 1 The Foundling (8 & 10 kids liked, but one scene was tense so both kids said wait a bit)
- Season 1, Episode 2 The Carnival (8 years old liked it)

Wee Willie Winkie (Shirley Temple. Eh. I was a bit bored. 6 year-old liked it. 8 year-old was upset by the battle.)

Yankee Doodle Dandy (James Cagney; 6 & 8)

You Were Never Lovelier (7 & 9)

Young Mr. Lincoln (6 & 8, kids enjoyed it -- with explanation. Exciting success in court.)