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Kids' Sports Don't Have to Be Expensive

Parents spend billions on child sports each year — the industry is [worth \\$15.3 billion annually](#). For any sport, buying the equipment, paying for coaching and registration fees, and traveling to competitions can cost you a lot of money. Here are some suggestions to reduce these sports-related expenses.

You Can Save Money on Sports Equipment

Second-hand equipment is probably the first place to look for savings in youth sports. Facebook Marketplace, [eBay](#), and [Craigslist](#) are all great places to score a good deal on gently used second-hand equipment. [Play It Again Sports](#) is a company that will buy your used equipment and sell you someone else's. [Freecycle](#), a nonprofit dedicated to keeping useful household goods out of landfills, provides a way to give away household items, including sports equipment, for free. While garage sales can be hit or miss, if you can find what you are looking for, you usually end up paying pennies on the dollar.

Another idea is to buy these things off-season. Think bathing suits in the fall and ice hockey skates in the summer. If your team doesn't already hold a swap day, where families exchange used equipment with each other, consider starting one yourself.

Other Ways to You Can Save Money

You can save money by carpooling to games, which makes getting to the areas around Gunter much cheaper. For overnight trips, look for hotels that offer [group rates](#).

By registering your child early, you can often take advantage of early bird special registration fees. Many teams will waive their fees if you volunteer to be a coach. All that's needed is a general understanding of the rules of play and some time commitment. It's a great way to get some special bonding time with your child during those long afternoons under the Texas sun.

Consider restricting your child to playing just one sport per season. This may sound obvious, but by doing so, you can cut your expenses in half. It also gives your child more time to spend on academics or just relaxin

Finally, encourage your athlete to practice at home in their own backyard. Just be sure you have a flat and level playing field, and that you have hired a [lawn care company](#) that is qualified, experienced, and insured. Many lawn care services now offer organic alternatives to chemical fertilizers and weed killers. The average cost for lawn care in Gunter is \$30 to \$80 for basic lawn mowing services.

Youth Sports Can Be Low-Budget But High Quality

Be sure to use some of the tips above when you decide it's time for your child to participate in sports.

As you already know, participation in youth sports is one of the best ways for children to learn the value of teamwork. For residents in the Gunter, Texas area, [Gunter Youth Association](#) offers competitive team play in a variety of sports. They even offer cheer squads from kindergarten to 6th grade. Contact Gunter Youth Association today for more information.