

Fun On The Farm

I think most people have fond memories of visiting a special family fun place in the fall. The pumpkin farms that my husband and I grew up going to are much different now – his has closed down, and mine has expanded beyond the family-owned small operation into a little carnival of sorts; I visited a few years ago. It was fun, but not the same. We've since moved away from the place of our youth, and we are happy to have found a fun place in NW Ohio to make memories with our own kids: [Leader's Family Farms](#).

Leader's has something for every age group: 2 haunted attractions for the older crowd, and for the family: mini-golf, a petting zoo (complete with exotics – more on that later!), hayrides, a hay maze, slides, chicken coop shooting, and a corn maze. For the little ones, there are bouncy castles, a moo-train, a hay-climber with tunnel, and a corn box. The under 5 kids area is really fun, and it's all free! My 2-year-old and my 3-year-old had a blast over there for hours, even if my son came home with a diaper full of corn – it was worth it! Actually, he still had corn coming out of his coat the next morning at church but again, it was well worth it! Here is a video of him playing in the corn box in case you're wondering what I'm talking about. The video pans to the rest of my kids, and finishes with my 3-year-old crawling through the little kids' tunnel:

My husband took my two oldest girls and their friend into the haunted corn maze. This was a big deal because this thing is SCARY! It is the best (read: scariest) haunted house in the area, and my daughter's friend wanted to go in it, so we convinced our daughter to go as well (they're both 10). Thrill-seeker little sis (age 6) really wanted to check it out, so she went too. They might have been REALLY scared, but they all made it out, and no one cried or tried to back out at the last minute! I wish I could have seen them in there, but the little ones were WAY too young for something like that, so I stayed out with them. I didn't mind too much since the exotic petting zoo was free – I hung out there for the hour and a half or so that it took my family to get through the haunted house. They had goats, sheep, alpacas, a teeny-tiny little pig, a camel (just a fuzzy baby, not his full height even though he was taller than I... I was wondering how old he was, and I found out he shares a February birthday with a fellow tangenteer...), and some kangaroos. They also had some other baby animals (a fox for one) and some parrots, but they could not bring them out because the weather was terrible – windy, cold, and rainy. But I got to pet some kangaroos and even feed them – I think it was the first time I've ever touched a kangaroo! They were good-tempered, soft, and really interesting to see up close and personal. I think the petting zoo people got sick of me, and I would have hung out more by the country band which I also liked, except that the weather was so terrible that it was hard to even enjoy the band – we all just wanted to stay out of the wind and rain. Look how little this pig is:

And here is more of the kangaroos and of the camel:

The hayride goes out way back into the forest, and luckily we rode it in between rain showers. The tractor even drove through a small creek bed that was partially filled – it looked like we were going to get stuck in the water:

My kids all liked it, even if there were some concerns about tipping on the steep hills going down into the forest – but we didn't tip. I can't wait to take my son on the hayride in our town in a few weeks -there are spooks that jump out from behind the trees there, and given his fascination with monsters lately, I know he'll have a blast! I brought out the Halloween costumes last night for the kids to pick through to find what they're going to be for Halloween, and my son found a Friday the 13th Jason hockey mask and insisted on going to bed with it. ☐

I must also add that Leader's is a family-owned farm; we struck up several conversations with the owners, and they are extremely nice and caring for their customers. The farm opened a little late when we visited because of the rain, so they gave us free passes to come back again – as busy as our Octobers are (this one being no exception), I think going back to Leader's when the weather is better is a MUST!! By the way, I was *this close* to taking home a straggler from the petting zoo. Only time will tell if I am able to resist next time we visit... ☐

My men on the hayride:



And my girls... note the beautiful NW Ohio countryside in the background. The scenery will only get better as the leaves change a little more and the sun comes out:



MiRRors

Hmm, I couldn't figure out how to make one of the R's in [Mirrors](#) backward like they do for the movie title, but anyway, we saw the movie [Mirrors](#) with [Keifer Sutherland](#) yesterday. It was between [Mirrors](#), [Tropic Thunder](#), and [The Rocker](#). We eliminated [The Rocker](#) from the selection because it didn't look or sound very good, and the only reason we were interested in seeing it is because it stars [Rainn Wilson](#), none other than the hilarious character Dwight Shrute on our favorite show, [The Office](#). We ended up going with [Mirrors](#) over [Tropic Thunder](#) because we were at the nice theater, and we figured a horror movie would give us more bang for our buck so to speak – take advantage of the larger screen and the nicer sound.

[Mirrors](#) is kind of lengthy for a horror film; it runs about 2 hours. It didn't drag for me at all, well, maybe a little, but only because baby Christopher decided to poopie during the movie and he needed his diaper changed. So I was like, when is this going to be over so I can change him because I don't want to miss the movie. It was a cool premise: Keifer Sutherland plays an NYPD cop who accidently shot and killed

another cop, so he still has some psychological bruises and can no longer be a cop. He gets a job as a security guard at an abandoned department store that had had a fire and burned – right up my alley; I really like abandoned buildings, defunct amusement parks, etc. The department store was cool looking, and throughout the movie, there were lots of shots of the outside as well as the inside. I kept wondering if it was an actual building they used for filming or rather a specially built facade... But anyway, the department store is haunted and the haunting ghoul uses mirrors to do its haunting and murdering. There is actually more to the plot, but I don't want to risk spilling any spoilers because it was a decent horror movie and worth seeing. We were alone in the theater, and when my husband left to go to the bathroom, I was pretty creeped out, so I'd say it was spookily successful. Before we saw the movie, I had read that the director, [Alexandre Aja](#), is one of a group of directors a horror movie magazine called, "The Splat Pack" for their affinity for blood and gore. The movie was not without blood and gore, but it was not over-used; something that gets on my nerves with many modern horror films – see #'s 1,2, and 5 on [my movie stinker list](#) – (The Devil's Rejects, Doomsday, and The Fun Park) – all terrible movies showcasing the over-usage of gore.

If you like horror movies, Mirrors is worth a try. We liked it and were entertained, despite it having a few obvious plot holes... but then again, what horror movie doesn't have plot holes?