

Family Outing: A Haibun

Mesmerized by the skate park, click-clack of plastic wheels. Like a flock of birds in low swoops, teenagers zoom the concrete bowl, hop rails, catch air, avoid crashes. Some middle school boys in the far end, working a new trick. One kid falls—no one laughs. *Whoa, Dude!* helps him up. He tries again—misses the landing. Laughs.

A young dad holds his three-year-old daughter's hand. Knees crouched, elbows padded, she rolls down a gentle ramp—comes to a stop, shouts *Yay Me!* with a fist pump.

pink helmet
fierce face
safe hands