



Favorite Family Movie List

By Tracy Lamperti, Lamperti Counseling & Consultation, November 2012

I will do my best to provide basic alerts about sensitive materials based on my recollection, which with some of these movies may be a few years old. Every parent should do their own research to ensure that the movie is one they would agree that their child(ren) of various ages view it.

ALL family movies should be filtered or pre-reviewed by parents, no matter who recommends it.

www.clearplay.com provides a DVD/USB system where a regular DVD is inserted into the Clearplay DVD player. The DVD is scanned for a filter on the USB stick (thousands of movies have available filters). Parents are then able to select the content they want filtered, from profanity, bloodshed, nudity, parental disrespect, etc. I firmly believe that every family should have a Clearplay system or something comparable. Just because you are using the Clearplay DVD player doesn't mean you have to filter anything.

If you choose to "try" a movie when a filter is not available, it is good to have a 2 strike policy. If you say, "uh-oh" or, share a concerning glance with another adult in the room, on the second time, children should be told, "we are sorry, but we need to look this one over a little more carefully before watching it as a family." In these cases, try to have a plan B movie or turn it into a family game night. It is far too common to have an attitude of, "Let's cross our fingers and hope those two offenses are the only ones in the movie." That is both wishful thinking and very unrealistic.

www.amazon.com is a great place to see what other people thought about a particular movie.

www.pluggedinonline.com is an excellent resource for movie reviews. However, for some of the older movies, reviews are not available.

In alphabetical order and not grouped in any particular way, here we go....

A Little Princess – As seen on PBS "Wonderworks" – Starring Maureen Lipman. Parents' Choice Award and BAFTA Award for Best Children's Program. Sara Crewe has always been the pampered darling of her doting father, a British Indian Army captain, and the exclusive boarding school she attends. But when her father dies and her fortune is lost, Sara becomes the victim of hardship and cruelty. Through friendship, imagination and her own resolute nature, the "little princess" finds her way back to happiness.

Air Bud – Our daughter likes this movie and so do I. Why Disney had to go and unnecessarily taint it with just a couple of spots of foul language is a mystery to me. There is no Clearplay filter but I know where the parts are and we skip them.

Amazing Grace, Ioan Gruffudd, Albert Finney!! The inspiring story of William Wilberforce and his passion and perseverance to pass a law ending the slave trade in the late 18th century. VERY good movie! 311 reviews on Amazon for a 4 ½ stars. Not for young children but the PG rating is for the theme, nor for violence, sex or language – you won't find those things here. Just a powerful movie!

Bambi – You all know what happens. There is a lot of controversy about children seeing the mommy deer's fate. We have the movie and our daughter enjoys it, of course that part makes her sad. But she does like to watch it on occasion.

Captains Courageous – I can't say enough about this movie! It is a very favorite. I understand there is a remake. We never watch the remakes. See this in its original form and not color remastered. The lessons in this movie are priceless. I admit, our 7 year old

enjoys it but a bit of talking about the themes has helped her understand it better. Check Dad's eyes toward the end. They might be a little leaky. This is a must see!

Captain January – A very darling one of Shirley Temple's early films. A great mother-daughter and even father-daughter see!

Cheaper by the Dozen – with Clifton Webb. Again, not the remake. Just see the old one. If it was good enough to remake, the old one must have been much loved! I liked it very much. The dad grated on the dad in our house 😊.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang – What's to say about this one? Everyone should see it! Although, the candy man might frighten some children.

Cinderella – Speaking of the Disney movie here. A classic. No interest for the guys.

Contact – with Jodie Foster. I will admit, I saw this a long time ago. I'm not remembering it being for young children. I list it here because I remember liking it. But it's been awhile and you will have to review it on your own.

Curious George – We like the first movie. The second one is so-so.

Davy Crocket, King of the Wild Frontier - We really enjoy Davy Crocket. Our son was Davy for Halloween one year and our daughter daydreams about being married to Davy. The gun and arrow fights are a bit violent for my liking but we do enjoy watching this movie and the other one on the disc, River Pirates, I like that one even more.

ET – This is one of my favorite movies and we love it as a family also. Our Clearplay bleeps out some bad language. The theme might be a little scary for little children.

Faith Like Potatoes – A very, very good movie! A white/Scottish man living and working in Africa who comes to trust in the Lord. There have been other good movies about how God works in people's lives, particularly Facing the Giants, Fireproof and others. The acting has been quite weak (although, I would encourage anyone to see them). Faith Like Potatoes is a true story and the acting is top notch as far as I am concerned. If you see this movie, be sure to go to "special features" and watch the documentary after you watch the movie. It is VERY good. Maybe even as good or better than the movie.. WARNING – there is a tragic/traumatic accident that occurs in the movie (as it did in real life) and it is very graphic. I did not watch this movie with Clearplay so I am not sure if there is a filter for it. If you want to be alerted in order to skip it, you can contact me and I will tell you when to take a break to refill your popcorn. We watched this movie with our 12 year old and were glad we did. However, we did **not** let him watch the traumatic segment. We have **not** shared this movie with our 7 year old. The tragic part is shown in the documentary as well. I highly recommend this movie. This movie left me thinking, "What am I doing with my life?"

Fly Away Home - We love this movie, especially our 7 year old daughter. There are a few objectionable words and we watch it with Clearplay.

Heidi – Also an early Shirley Temple film. Love it for mother-daughter, father-daughter but wouldn't hesitate to have our older son watch also.

Herbie – Let me just ask, "Why watch the remake on this one?" The original is perfect. The remake, from what I have been told, introduces various themes and language that are just not necessary. Our son loved all of the old Herbie movies. We even got him a special Herbie matchbox (well, it's not matchbox, but similar) car special ordered from Germany (when I ordered it from ebay I didn't know it was coming from Germany), classy! He also has the Hallmark ornament! Our daughter enjoys these movies as well, but our son wore himself out on them and doesn't usually want to watch with her 😊.

It's a Wonderful Life - My goodness...I can only seem to watch this piece by piece because it is always running at some point during Christmas festivities and no one sits still and everyone is talking. But I think I love this movie. This year will be the one where I watch it without interruption!

Pippi Longstocking – Again, no remakes for us. See the one with Inger Nilsson. Pippi is just crazy! On first viewing, my response was, "This isn't appropriate for my child!" But we have since watched it many times and the more I watch it, the funnier I find it! Our daughter had a Pippi Birthday party on her 7th. It was so fun to plan! The guys aren't much into it, but Pippi is just so funny and crazy that we laugh a lot as a family by reciting her hilarious lines and acting it out!

Pollyanna – There is a remake of this movie. Not for us! I will never watch the remake. I love this movie. All factors considered, it is my favorite movie. My daughter loves it as well. I have watched it maybe 20 times! I will watch it again and again. I think I know

almost all of the lines☺! Young, old, male, female...everyone should see this movie and get a lesson out of it whether they want to or not! I cry at the end every time!

Mary Poppins – Same thing as Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. It's for everyone!

Star Wars – The series of all 6 movies is a must for everyone at some point in their life or another. As a teen, I really didn't care for it at all. Looking at it now....it is rich with lessons, messages....I must warn though, people let their little boys watch this *too early* and I admit that we did also. The lava scene is **NOT** for children!!! Other scenes as well. This is well filtered with Clearplay. As you can imagine, if you have seen it, a lot is filtered out, depending on the level of filtering you choose.

Miracle on 34th Street – This movie should be a yearly holiday tradition. We saw it for the first time last year and loved it!! I don't know if there is a remake, but I hope not. Appropriate for all ages.

Mr. Limpet – Cute. Well done. Good family movie. Our children like it. I like it too.

Sergeant York – Amazon has it at 190 reviews, 4 ½ stars. A very good movie. Story of World War I hero who captured German position single-handedly. Film also portrays York's earlier life in the mountains of Tennessee. It is NR (not rated). I don't recall it being for young children. It's been awhile since I've seen it. A good father-son, or even mother-son movie.

Stand and Deliver – There is a Clearplay filter for this. You will have to use your own judgment about when your teenager is ready to take it in. There are some very difficult themes, even with Clearplay. That said, it is a **MUST SEE**, at the right time.

The Absent Minded Professor – Very good family movie.

The Apple Dumpling Gang – Love it! Great family movie. Thought my son was going to need CPR from laughing so hard when he was about 7 years old, particularly the roof scene☺.

The Black Stallion – Very good movie with a very good message.

The Burbs – We happen to think this movie is hilarious and we love to laugh together. With Clearplay, it is appropriate for all ages. It would not be a choice if we did not have Clearplay. We also happen to think **The Money Pit** is also a roaring laugh. Clearplay does its filtering job with this one as well. However, what Clearplay cannot do is remove a theme from a movie. In Money Pit, there is a strong theme of an extramarital affair. We did not feel good about exposing our son to this theme and once it was done, you can't take it back. In The Burbs, there is a theme of the neighbors killing the other neighbor and incinerating them. Definitely not good. Use your own discretion and absolutely, make sure parents are in agreement.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe – A classic C.S. Lewis. Very well done. In my opinion, scary for a child. Just now beginning to consider whether it would be ok for our 7 year old. Not sure if there is a Clearplay filter. I believe it would be too frightening for her. A very good movie. The subsequent Narnia's, actually, I only saw the next one, which I think was Prince Caspian, I felt were unnecessarily violent and that this violence detracted from the story line.

The Great Race – Another classic. Just about every old star you can think of is in this. A really crazy movie. It's a 1965 movie, unrated, really crazy. So crazy, how can you not think it's a riot! Our 6 year old, at the time, watched it with us. Ahhhh, not sure that was a great idea, but so it turns out, no harm done that I can tell. It's a **LONG** movie. Amazon, 224 reviews, 4 ½ stars. Did I mention, "really crazy!"

The Guns of Navarone – A very good family movie for **OLDER** teens. Actually, our 12 year old watched it with us. It is a 1961 movie and NR (not rated). Amazon...143 reviews, 4 ½ stars. There is violence. Gregory Peck, David Niven. A crack team of British commandos seeks to destroy a German munitions base in occupied Greece during WWII.

The Iron Giant – Very good family movie. Some younger children might be frightened. Amazon has it at 551 reviews, 4 ½ stars. "A young boy rescues a huge robot which has rocketed to earth from space - and tries to protect the genial giant from a nosey government agent and the military. A captivating animated feature that's part metal, part magic and all heart."

The Lion King – Wow, Amazon, 1,073 reviews, 4 ½ stars! May be scary for small children and sad for children a bit older.

The Nativity Story – This movie will cost you about \$5 if you want to own it. It is so well done! If you care to see the best depiction of the Christian story about Christmas, see this movie. Many of the lines are taken right from scripture. A very emotional movie. Parents should definitely view it prior to watching with children of any age. I don't think I will watch it with my daughter until she is

at least 10 unless I skip a few parts. Herod's order to kill the baby boys is depicted (although there are no graphic scenes in this movie), and Mary is shown in labor (no graphics here either). They are adult themes though and parents would want to review it first. There is certainly nothing funny about the movie, but if we wanted to identify some comic relief, it would be in the 3 wise men. A very good movie I have watched every year around the holidays since it was released.

The Old Man and the Sea – Also a very good movie. Not sure if there is a remake, but if so, see the original. I found it to be a bit slow, and a bit sad, but again, very good lessons.

The Parent Trap – A very good family movie!

The Railway Children – Like Pollyanna, this is a Masterpiece Theater film. Very good! Appropriate for all ages. Excellent lessons. These are movies that fill your heart with hope!

The Russians are Coming – This was a, “What has my husband chosen this time??” movie. It starts off in the Russian language, just for maybe the first 5 minutes. An excellent family movie and no need for Clearplay. For families that don't want their children to ever see a gun, you would probably avoid this movie. But no one ever gets shot. No one ever gets hurt. Did I say “very funny”? It is a very funny movie. Our 7 year old daughter and 12 year old son really enjoy this movie, and so do us parents! There is one part in particular that we relived at the dinner table for nights in a row after seeing the movie and had each other in stitches!!!

The Shaggy Dog – Very good family movie.

The Sound of Music – I love this movie and so does my daughter. Son and husband have seen it, as is only right, and appreciate it, but don't like it as we girls do.

The Wizard of Oz – Another classic! I didn't think that our children should watch this because when I was young the monkeys made me cry and I lied to my mother about having a stomach ache when she asked me what was wrong 😊. My husband worked me through it and our children have watched and liked this movie.

To Ride a Wild Horse – Good family movie.

I hope you will share your favorites with me 😊!

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Thanks,
Tracy