Kid-Friendly NYC - ARLIS Local Guide

Attractions/Activities | Food and Drink | Shopping | Transportation | Babysitting

Kid-Friendly NYC
Winter Fun for Kids
Young and Free NYC (free things to do) (above from Official NYC guide)
Mommy Poppins

New York Magazine Visitor’s Guide: see With Kids section
Time Out NY: KIDS section (+ print magazine distributed free on Weds. covers events by the week. See map for distribution locations.)

Attractions/Activities

Ice Skating

Lasker Rink (Central Park)
Wollman Rink (Central Park): with carousel, weather permitting
Rockefeller Center
Bryant Park
LeFrak Center at Lakeside, Lefferts Garden, (Brooklyn)
Flushing Meadows Corona Park (Queens)

Winter indoor activities

50 Things to Do Indoors with Kids
Midtown vicinity

New York Public Library 53rd Street Branch
https://www.nypl.org/locations/53rd-street
18 West 53rd Street New York, NY, 10019
This library is just across from MoMA and was designed in 2016 by TEN Arquitectos, close to the old Donnell Library that sadly closed in 2008 to make way for a hotel and condominium complex. Donnell was known for its children’s and world languages collection, the latter of which is now at the Mid-Manhattan Library on 40th Street, the largest of the NYPL branch libraries. This new branch has events, a children’s collection and room, and DVD and CD collections, among other things.

FDNY Fire Zone
http://www.fdnysmart.org/firezone/
34 W 51st St, New York, NY 10019
Interactive learning environment with a focus on fire safety. FDNY apparel and collectibles available for sale as well.

Top of the Rock
https://www.topoftherocknyc.com/
30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112
See incredible views of NYC from three observation decks at the top of Rockefeller Center.

The Heimbold Family Children’s Playing and Learning Center
http://www.scandinaviahouse.org/playing-learning-center/
Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue at 38th Street
Ages 1 and up (children must be walking independently to be admitted)
Indoor play area.

American Girl Place
http://www.americangirl.com/retail/new_york_city.php
75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019
Home of the American Girl Doll, as well as a salon for kids and dolls, a cafe (reservations are recommended), doll repair facilities, special events, and of course, a shop to buy dolls and accessories.

Eloise at the Plaza Hotel
http://www.theplazany.com/eloise/
Fifth Avenue at Central Park South New York, NY 10019
Kay Thompson’s *Eloise* (1955) lived at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan. The historic and iconic hotel at Fifth Avenue and Central Park South has an Eloise Suite for those who really wish to
splurge, plus an Eloise shop, periodic Eloise-themed tea times and other events of interest to families.

Other

Bounce ‘ N Play
http://bouncenplayny.com/open-play/
20-21 Steinway St, Astoria, NY 11105 (Queens)
Great play areas for preschoolers, plus slides and bounce houses for all ages. Also a rock climbing wall. Friday Family Open Nights available. Two-hour sessions during the week. (accessible by subway)

Children’s Garden at the New York Botanical Garden (year-round)
https://www.nybg.org/garden/childrens-adventure-garden/
2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458-5126
Both outdoor activities based in nature, plus indoor classes and events that change with the seasons.

Food and Drink

Serendipity 3
http://www.serendipity3.com/index.htm
225 E. 60th St. bet. 2nd and 3rd Aves.
A New York institution since the 1950s, Serendipity is known for its frozen hot chocolate but also has lots of other sweets and drinks, and a full restaurant menu.

Melt Shop
https://www.meltshop.com/
130 W. 50th Street (btw. 6th and 7th Aves.)
Sandwiches, salads, tater tots, milkshakes.

Pret A Manger
There are at least a couple near the conference hotel. A British chain with locations worldwide, and a largely organic array of unique sandwiches, soups, salads, and more. Inexpensive, tasty and convenient. Vegetarian options.

Best Kid-Friendly Restaurants near Rockefeller Center (Mommy Poppins)
Best Kid-Friendly Restaurants MIDTOWN EAST (Yelp)
Best Kid-Friendly Restaurants MIDTOWN WEST (Yelp)
Shopping

The LEGO Store
620 5th Ave, New York, NY 10020

Nintendo store
http://nintendony.com/
10 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020
Has in-store events

For kids’ clothing, there is both a Uniqlo and H&M not too far away, both of which sell children’s clothing that won’t break the bank. Uniqlo is on 5th Ave. between 52nd and 53rd Streets, and there is an H&M in the Shops at Columbus Circle, which would be a good spot to park oneself with kids in the cold weather. There is also a Whole Foods Market there, in addition to other shops and restaurants.

Transportation

Kid Car
https://www.kidcar.com/
Serves NYC; available 24/7. Newborns to 15-year-old accepted. Minimum charge of $25 for sedans; minivans and SUVs cost more. Car seats cost $10 each. Costs can be shared with multiple families. Drivers are vetted and trained, and you will know the driver’s name and will receive a picture of the driver’s car and license plate. The car can be tracked if one reserves from a phone. May cost as much as twice that of a taxi, but allows unaccompanied kids.

Kidmoto
https://kidmoto.taxi/
Another service that provides licensed and insured drivers with cars that provide “pre-harnessed and pre-installed car seats” within NYC and to/from the airports.

Babysitting

Time Out guide to best services (2015)
Care.com
Sittercity.com
UrbanSitter
Baby Sitters’ Guild
*ARLIS/NA does not endorse commercial businesses. Proceed at your own discretion.