



New York
Early Childhood
Professional
Development
Institute





Welcome!

Welcome to the ACS/CUNY Informal Family Child Care Project *Guide to Free and Low Cost Activities to do with Children in New York City!* As a child care provider, you have the unique responsibility and joy of caring for children during an important time in their lives. Being out in the world adds variety to the day and helps children develop a sense of themselves and the world around them. We hope this guide makes your time with children easier, more interesting and more FUN!

Who we are:

The ACS/CUNY Informal Family Child Care Project (IFCC) is a partnership between the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and the City University of New York (CUNY) created to support the important work you do with children and families every day. IFCC offers a variety of programs and services, including:

- Professional learning workshops
- · Coaching and individualized support
- · Career development, and
- Resources and materials to use with children.

Who this guide is for.

Whether you are caring for one child a few days a week or several children on a regular basis, you are building relationships and providing important learning opportunities through the choices you make every day. IFCC created this guide for you, to share information about the rich resources and experiences available for young children in New York City, many of which are free or low cost.

How to use this guide:

Outings with children can include short trips – like a daily walk or a visit to a local park, library, or grocery store – or longer outings to specific destinations. In this guide, you will find information about places to visit with children and tips for making your outings safe and engaging. The guide is organized in two ways – by borough and by type of experience or venue – and puts information about the diverse resources NYC has to offer at your fingertips.





MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Plan Your Visit

- to visit.
- **PREPARE** for the outing.
 - → Visit the venue's website or call. in advance for information
 - → Choose one or two exhibits or areas to focus on during your
 - → Consider logistics like transportation, supervision, weather, and
 - → Inform families in advance about where you're going.
 - → Ensure children are dressed properly.
 - → Pack a first aid kit.
- **BUILD** excitement before your visit.
 - → TALK with children about what they might see and introduce new words and concepts (What is a museum? What is an exhibit?).
 - → **READ** books and share stories about some of the things they may see.
 - → **ASK** guestions to learn what children are curious about.

While You're There

- FOLLOW children's lead and let them. guide your exploration.
- OBSERVE children interacting with exhibits, displays, activities.
- **DOCUMENT** your observations with pictures or notes to help children remember the experience later.

- CHOOSE a museum or cultural venue LISTEN and OBSERVE for opportunities to introduce new words or concepts
 - **ASK** open-ended questions like:
 - → What do you NOTICE?
 - → What do you WONDER?
 - → How does it make you FEEL?
 - Make it FUN!
 - → Invite children to ACT OUT what they see.
 - → PLAY "I SPY" (I spy something red, round, HÙGÉ, tiny, etc.).

Extending Learning

- At home, **ENCOURAGE REFLECTION** about the outing. You might ask:
 - → What did you like the most about our trip today?
 - → What new words did you learn?
 - → What can we find or use at home to make our own art (or structures, animals, etc.)?
- **EXTEND** children's learning by trying the following activities after your visit:
 - → **CREATE** an art gallery with children and **OBSERVE** each other's creations.
 - → READ and TALK about art and creative expression.

BROOKLYN Museums and Cultural Institutions

Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District

https://untappedcities.com/2014/04/11/a-look-at-brooklyns-skyscraperhistoric-district/

The Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District is a cluster of 21 buildings surrounding Brooklyn's Borough Hall.

Directions::









2345 to Borough Hall GAGR to Jay St - MetroTech

Brooklyn Academy of Music Historic District

Peter Jay Sharp Building 30 Lafayette Ave Brooklyn, NY 11217 (718) 636-4100

bam.org

Admission based on tickets purchased for shows

Local architects designed this neighborhood of three- and four-story row houses between 1885 and 1859. A few rare homes with cast-iron facades were added in the 1870s. In 1908 the Brooklyn Academy of Music built its new headquarters designed by Herts & Tallant in the Italian Renaissance Revival style here.

Directions:















2 6 4 5 B D N Q R to Atlantic Ave - Barclay's Center

Brooklyn Museum

200 Eastern Parkway (at Washington Avenue) Brooklyn, NY 11238 (718) 638-5000 brooklynmuseum.org Admission: Adults \$16 19 and under FREE,

Wed - Sun 11am - 6pm

Target First Saturdays FREE

The Brooklyn Museum is one of the oldest and largest art museums in the country. Its world-renowned permanent collections range from ancient Egyptian masterpieces to contemporary art, and represent a wide range of cultures.

Directions:

🔼 🚯 to Eastern Pkwy- Brooklyn Museum

BROOKLYN Museums and Cultural Institutions

Brooklyn Children's Museum

145 Brooklyn Ave (718) 735-4400 brooklynkids.org

Pay as you wish Thursdays 2-6 pm*

*Does not apply to schools, camps, or other organized groups. Free hours are suspended on days during NYC School's Out Weeks. BCM will offer a reduced admission rate of \$5 per person on these dates after 3 pm.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum is the world's oldest children's museum. With a recent expansion, new exhibits and programs are available to children and families. The museum's collection and exhibitions reflect its long history as well as the changes in children's educational needs over time and the changing environment.

Directions:







to Kingston/Throop Ave

New York Transit Museum

Brooklyn Heights 130 Livingston Street, 10th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718) 694-3451 nytransitmuseum.org Admission: Adults \$10 Children and Seniors \$5

The New York Transit Museum explores the development of the greater New York Metropolitan region through the presentations of exhibitions, tours, educational programs, and workshops dealing with the cultural, social, and technological history of public transportation.

Directions:









2345 to Borough Hall **ACR** to Jay St - MetroTech

PARKS, RECREATION AND OUTDOOR VENUES

Plan Your Visit

- CHOOSE a park or other outdoor venue to visit.
- **PREPARE** for the outing:
 - → Visit the venue's website or call in advance to plan trip logistics.
 - → Choose one or two areas to focus on during your outing.
 - → Consider logistics like transportation, supervision, weather and meals
 - → Inform families in advance about where you're going.
 - → Plan your route and be prepared to adjust based on children's needs
 - → Ensure children are dressed properly.
 - → Pack a first aid kit.
- TALK about what to expect.
 - → What do they think they will see?
 - → Are there games or equipment they look forward to playing with?

While You're There

- ENCOURAGE children to use their SENSES.
 - → **ASK** them to close their eyes and tell you what they hear or smell.
 - → **TOUCH** tree bark and other clean, safe objects you find and talk about texture, shape and size.
- ENCOURAGE children to LOOK for wildlife
 - → LOOK under rocks and sticks for bugs, look up in the trees for birds.
 - → **LOOK** for animal tracks or for feathers that can tell the story of the animals that live in the area. 20

- **GO** on a scavenger hunt! Work together to create a list of items you may find and see outdoors.
- COLLECT leaves, rocks, sticks and other items to bring back with you.

Extending Learning

- When you get home, ENCOURAGE **REFLECTION** about their experience and discoveries.
- You might ask:
 - → What did you like the most about our time outside today?
 - → What did you find on our outing today?
- **DISCUSS** what they see and **EXPAND** on their observations using descriptive words.
- EXTEND their learning by trying the following activities with them after your outing:
 - → ASK children to share their observations and discoveries.
 - → OFFER books and FACILITATE discussions about the outdoors, living in a city, the animals they saw.
 - → MAKE art using the items you collected. Press flowers, glitter pinecones or draw part of your favorite park outdoor activity.

Albert J. Parham Playground

Willoughby Ave, Adelphi St & Clermont Ave, Ft Green (212) 639-9675 nycgovparks.org/parks/albert-j-parham-playground Free Admission

Located south of Willoughby Avenue between Adelphi Street and Clermont Avenue in Brooklyn, this playground is named for Albert Lysander Parham (1914-1990)

Directions:



to Lafayette Ave

Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Garden

94 A / 95 Malcolm X Boulevard Brooklyn, NY 11221 212) 333-2552

nyrp.org/green-spaces/garden-details/bedford-stuyvesant-community-garden Free Admission

The Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Garden – formerly the Lola Bryant Community Garden – has long been known for the large quantities of fruits and vegetables – including collard greens, tomatoes, okra and pole and bush beans – that were cultivated there for many years by avid local gardeners and shared with senior citizens and others in the community.

Directions:



A to Utica Ave, B46 to Malcolm X Blvd/Gates Ave



Bridge Plaza Community Garden

153 Concord Street

Brooklyn, NY 11201

(212) 333-2552

nyrp.org/green-spaces/garden-details/bridge-plaza-community-garden Free Admission

Located in the Downtown section of the borough, this 2,500-square-foot garden serves a neighborhood comprised primarily of residential, office and government buildings.

Directions::



to Utica Ave, B46 to Malcolm X Blvd/Gates Ave

Brighton Playground

Brighton 2nd Street & Bridgewater Court Brooklyn, NY 11235 nycgovparks.org/parks/brighton-playground Free Admission

The playground design was inspired by the amusements and marine life of Coney Island. Sea creatures from starfish to dolphins adorn the steel panels at entrances to the playground and the play equipment.

Directions:



🚺 to Brighton Beach

Carroll Gardens Greenmarket

Carroll Street and Smith Street Brooklyn, NY 11231 (212) 788-7476 grownyc.org/greenmarket/brooklyn/carroll-gardens Sundays 8am-3pm

Most Greenmarkets provide an array of fresh fruit and vegetables, plants and flowers, grass-fed meat, fresh fish, eggs and dairy products. Most markets accept SNAP/EBT cards.

Directions:



🔁 🥝 to Carroll St

Brooklyn Bridge Park and Brooklyn Bridge Conservancy

334 Furman Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718) 222-9939 brooklynbridgepark.org Free Admission

Brooklyn Bridge Park partners with Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy to provide a programming schedule that contains over 400 free activities throughout the year ranging from children's education programs and bike lessons, to performing arts and fitness classes.

Directions:

2 3 4 5 to Borough Hall

A G to High St R to Court St

to Jay St - MetroTech

Brooklyn Borough Hall Greenmarket

Court St and Montague St Brooklyn, NY 11241 grownyc.org/greenmarket/brooklyn/boro-hall-sa Tu, Th, and Sat 8am-6pm

Most Greenmarkets provide an array of fresh fruit and vegetables, plants and flowers, grass-fed meat, fresh fish, eggs and dairy products. Most markets accept SNAP/EBT cards.

Directions:

(2) (3) (4) to Borough Hall (R) to Court St



Brooklyn Botanic Garden

900 Washington Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11225 (718) 623-7200 bbg.org

Free Admission for Children Under 12 & School groups

Free Admission also on Saturdays 10–12 noon*, Winter Weekdays & Tuesdays (* Except on Saturdays with public programs such as Sakura Matsuri, Chile Pepper Festival, and Ghouls & Gourds.)

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden serves all the people in its community and throughout the world by displaying plants and practicing the high art of horticulture.

Directions:



2 6 to Eastern Pkwy - Brooklyn Museum





Coney Island / Brighton Beach

Surf Ave at W 12th St.

(Stretches from W 37th St to Brighton Beach)

Coney Island: (718) 946-1350 Brighton Beach: (718) 946-1350

nycgovparks.org/parks/coney-island-beach-and-boardwalk/facilities/beaches

Free Beach Admission

Coney Island Brighton Beach is an oceanside neighborhood in the southern portion of Brooklyn.

Directions:





(a) N to Coney Island - Stillwell Ave.

Cooper Street Community Garden

34 Cooper Street (between Broadway and Bushwick Avenue) Brooklyn, NY 11207

212) 333-2552

nyrp.org/green-spaces/garden-details/cooper-street-community-garden Free Admission

GrowNYC's garden program has built or rejuvenated more than 100 community gardens across New York City, and continues to work with schools, public housing associations, and community groups to transform vacant land into vibrant spaces that challenge communities to interact with each other.

You can find out more information about the community gardens at: https://www.grownyc.org/gardens/our-community-gardens Directions:



to Bushwick

DUMBO Historic District

Water Street between Pearl Street and Anchorage Place Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718) 237-8700

DUMBO (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass) is a neighborhood between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges with walkways, green space, playgrounds and great views of Manhattan. Directions:





🚯 to Clark St 🔼 🔘 to High St 📵 to York St





Essex Street Community Garden

3030 Fulton Street (at Essex Street) Brookyn, NY 11208

(212) 333-2552

nyrp.org/green-spaces/garden-details/essex-street-community-garden Free Admission

Established in 1996 by local gardeners, the centerpiece of the Essex Street Community Garden is a series of large, raised planting beds enclosed by low stone walls that provide ample space for cultivating vegetables and herbs.

Directions:



to Cleveland St

Prospect Park Zoo

450 Flatbush Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11225 (718) 399-7339 prospectparkzoo.com Admission Low Cost: Adults \$8.00 Children (3-12) \$5.00 Seniors (65+) 6.00 Children under 2 FREE

The Prospect Park Zoo connects families, children, and adults to wildlife. The Prospect Park Zoo offers many exhibits and attractions for all ages.

Directions:







(B) (4) (5) (O) to Prospect Park

Cortelyou Greenmarket

Cortelyou Road (between Argyle & Rugby) Brooklyn, NY 11226 (212) 788-7476 grownyc.org/greenmarket/brooklyn/cortelyou Sun 8am-4pm

Shoppers routinely fill their market bags and baskets with specialty Mexican produce and herbs, eggs, chicken, fresh pasta, orchard fruit and juice, seafood, mushrooms, grass-fed beef, goat cheese, and vegetables grown in the Black Dirt region of Orange County, NY.

Directions:



to Cortelyou Rd

Eagle Street Rooftop Farm

44 Eagle Street Brooklyn, NY 11222 Sundays 9-4pm (During the growing season) Free Admission

Directions:



to Greenpoint Ave

LIBRARIES

Plan Your Visit

- CHOOSE a library to visit.
- **PREPARE** for your visit:
 - → Visit the library's website or call the branch you will be visiting. Most library branches offer interactive story times for different age groups as well as many other free programs and activities.
 - → Consider visiting the library in advance to meet the children's librarian and learn the layout of the library.
- SIGN UP for your own library card if you don't already have one, and ask parents if their children have library cards before you go.
- PREPARE children for story times at the library by setting aside a daily Story Time when you read aloud to children. If there are older children in your care, you may want get them involved in reading aloud to children as well.

While You're There

- INTRODUCE the children to the children's librarian and encourage children to ask for help with finding books. Older children may ask for help with homework assignments or projects.
- **DO** a Picture Walk.
 - → Choose a book preferably with lots of illustrations - and "walk" through the book, one page at a time.

- → **OBSERVE** what children **NOTICE**.
- → TALK about the characters and ask children to PREDICT what might happen, then
- → READ the book together.
- ENCOURAGE children to select one or two books (or more!) to bring home.
 You may also consider checking out books on tape or CD, DVD's and other available resources.

Extending Learning

- When you get home, ENCOURAGE REFLECTION about their experience at the library.
- You might ask:
 - → What was your favorite part of the story you heard today?
 - → Why did you choose these books today?
- EXPLORE the following activities to continue promoting EARLY LITERACY and LANGUAGE development.
 - → **READ** to and with children
 - → **OBSERVE** how they **INTERACT** with books and stories
 - → INVITE children to create books of their own.
 - → CREATE a quiet and comfortable Book Nook or area in your home with books and soft materials.

Main Branch

The Brooklyn Public Library

10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238 (718) 230-2100 bklynlibrary.org

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Arlington Library 203 Arlington Ave Brooklyn, NY 11207 (718) 277-6105

Bedford Learning Library 496 Franklin Ave Brooklyn, NY 11238 (718) 623-0012

Brighton Beach Library 16 Brighton 1st Rd Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718) 946-2917

Bushwick Library 340 Bushwick Ave Brooklyn, NY 11206 (718) 602-1348

Canarsie Library 1580 Rockaway Pkwy. (at Ave. J) Brooklyn, NY 11236 (718) 257-6547

Clarendon Library 2035 Nostrand Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11210 (718) 421-1159

Coney Island Library 1901 Mermaid Ave. (Near W. 19th St.) Brooklyn, NY 11224 (718) 265-3220 Bay Ridge Library 7223 Ridge Blvd Brooklyn, NY 11209 (718) 748-5709

Borough Park Library 1265 43rd St Brooklyn, NY 11219 (718) 437-4085

Brownsville Library 61 Glenmore Ave Brooklyn, NY 11212 (718) 498-9721

Business & Career Library 280 Cadman Plaza W. (at Tillary St.) Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718) 623-7000

Carroll Gardens Library 396 Clinton St. (at Union St.) Brooklyn, NY 11231 (718) 596-6972

Clinton Hill Library 380 Washington Ave. (at Lafayette Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11238 (718) 398-8713

Cortelyou Library 1305 Cortelyou Rd. (at Argyle Rd.) Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718) 693-7763

Cypress Hills Library

1197 Sutter Ave. (at Crystal St.) Brooklyn, NY 11208 (718) 277-6004

Dyker Library

8202 13th Ave. (at 82nd St.) Brooklyn, NY 11228 (718) 748-6261

Eastern Parkway Library

1044 Eastern Pkwy. (at Schenectady Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11213 (718) 953-4225

Fort Hamilton Library

9424 Fourth Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11209 (718) 748-6919

Greenpoint Library

107 Norman Ave. (at Leonard St.) Brooklyn, NY 11222 (718) 349-8504

Highlawn Library

1664 W. 13th St. (at Kings Highway) Brooklyn, NY 11223 (718) 234-7208

Jamaica Bay Library

9727 Seaview Ave. (at E. 98th St. near Rockaway Pkwy.) Brooklyn, NY 11236 (718) 241-3571

Kings Bay Library

3650 Nostrand Ave. (near Ave. W) Brooklyn, NY 11229 (718) 368-1709

Leonard Library

81 Devoe St. (at Leonard St.) Brooklyn, NY 11211 (718) 486-6006

Mapleton Library

1702 60th Street Brooklyn, NY 11204 (718) 256-2117

DeKalb Library

790 Bushwick Ave (at DeKalb Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11221 (718) 455-3898

East Flatbush Library

9612 Church Ave. (at Rockaway Pkwy) Brooklyn, NY 11212 (718) 922-0927

Flatbush Library

22 Linden Blvd. (at Flatbush Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718) 856-0813

Gerritsen Beach Library

2808 Gerritsen Ave. (Bartlett Place) Brooklyn, NY 11229 (718) 368-1435

Gravesend Library

303 Ave. X (at West. 2nd St.) Brooklyn, NY 11223 (718) 382-5792

Homecrest Library

2525 Coney Island Ave. (at Ave. V) Brooklyn, NY 11223 (718) 382-5924

Kensington Library

4207 18th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11218 (718) 436-0545

Kings Highway Library

2115 Ocean Ave. (near Kings Highway) Brooklyn, NY 11229 (718) 375-3037

Macon Library

361 Lewis Ave. (at Macon St.) Brooklyn, NY 11233 (718) 573-5606

Marcy Library

617 DeKalb Ave. (at Nostrand Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11216 (718) 935-0032

McKinley Park Library 6802 Fort Hamilton Pkwy (at 68th St.) Brooklyn, NY 11219 (718) 748-8001 New Lots Library 665 New Lots Ave. (at Barbey St.) Brooklyn, NY 11207 (718) 649-0311 Pacific Library

1743 86th St. (at Bay 17th St.) Brooklyn, NY 11214 (718) 236-4086 **Paerdegat Library** 25 Fourth Ave. (at Pacific St.) 850 E. 59th St. (at Paerdegat Ave. South) Brooklyn, NY 11217 Brooklyn, NY 11234 (718) 638-1531 (718) 241-3994 **Park Slope Library Red Hook Library** 431 6th Ave. (at 9th St.) 7 Wolcott St. (at Dwight St.) Brooklyn, NY 11215 Brooklyn, NY 11231 (718) 832-1853 (718) 935-0203 **Rugby Library Ryder Library** 1000 Utica Ave. (Near Tilden Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11203 Brooklyn, NY 11204 (718) 566-0054 (718) 331-2962 Saratoga Library Spring Creek Library

Saratoga Library 8 Thomas S. Boyland St. (at "Macon St.") Brooklyn, NY 11233 (718) 573-5224

Stone Avenue Library 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard Brooklyn, NY 11212 (718) 485-8347

Ulmer Park Library 2602 Bath Ave (at 26th Ave) Brooklyn, NY 11214 (718) 265-3443

Washington Irving Library				
360 Irving Ave. (at Woodbine St.)				
Brooklyn, NY 11237				
(718) 628-8378				

5902 23rd Ave. (bet. 23rd Ave. at 59th St.) 12143 Flatlands Ave. (at New Jersey Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11207 (718) 257-6571 Sunset Park Library 5108 4th Ave. (at 51st St.) Brooklyn, NY 11220 (718) 567-2806 **Walt Whitman Library** 93 Saint Edwards St. (between Myrtle and Park Avenues) Brooklyn, NY 11205 (718) 935-0244 Williamsburgh Library 240 Division Ave. (at Marcy Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11211 (718) 302-3485

Mill Basin Library

Brooklyn, NY 11234

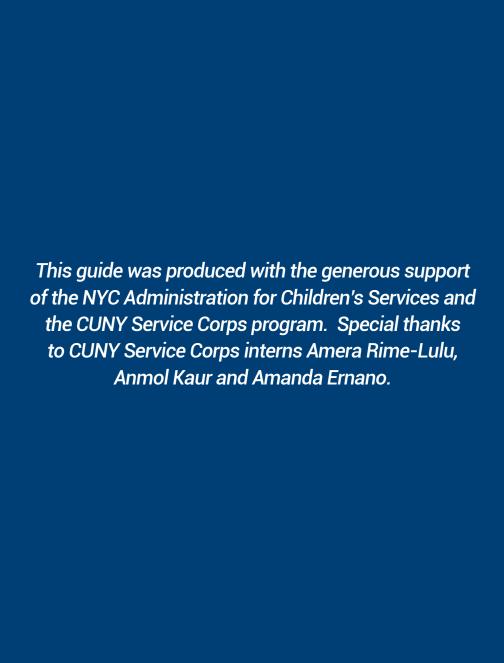
New Utrecht Library

(718) 241-3973

2385 Ralph Ave (near Ave N)









ACS/CUNY Informal Family Child Care Project

NY Early Childhood Professional Development Institute City University of New York

16 Court Street

Brooklyn, NY 11241

Phone: 718-254-7354

Email: IFCC@earlychildhoodny.org







