



A Guide to
Free and Low Cost
Activities to do
with Children
in New York City



New York
Early Childhood
Professional
Development
Institute

CUNY THE CITY
UNIVERSITY
OF
NEW YORK



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.

A circular map fragment in the center of the page, showing a street grid. The text "Places to Visit in QUEENS" is overlaid on the map. The map fragment includes labels for Cross Island Pkwy, Northern Blvd, and Long Island Exwy.

Places to Visit in
QUEENS



MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Plan Your Visit

- **CHOOSE** a museum or cultural venue 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 visit.
 - Consider logistics like transportation, supervision, weather, and meals.
 - 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** questions to learn what children are curious about.
- **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, HUGE, 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.

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.

QUEENS Museums and Cultural Institutions

Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College (Godwin Ternbach Museum)

65-30 Kissena Boulevard 405 Klapper Hall
Queens, NY 11367
(718) 997-4747
gtmuseum.org
Mon-Fri 11am-7pm Sat 11am- 5pm
Pay As You Wish

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum organizes cultural exhibitions and programs of contemporary and historical significance for the diverse audiences of Queens and the metropolitan region. It is the only comprehensive collection of art and artifacts in the borough, housing nearly 6,000 works that date from ancient to modern times, which represent global cultures from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America.

Directions:

Q25 **Q34** **Q44** **Q64** to Queens College

Lawrence Family Graveyard Historic District

Southeast Corner of 20th Road and 35th Street
Queens, NY 11105
(718) 997-4747
Lawrence Family Graveyard Historic District is a cemetery located in Queens.

Directions:

N **Q** to Astoria- Ditmars Blvd or **Q100** to 20th Ave/31st St
or **Q101** to Steinway St/21st Ave

Queens Museum of Arts

NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Queens, NY 11368
(718) 592-9700
queensmuseum.org
Wed-Sun 12pm-6pm

The Queens Museum is dedicated to presenting the highest quality visual arts and educational programming for people in the New York metropolitan area, and particularly for the residents of Queens, a uniquely diverse, ethnic, cultural, and international community.

Directions:

7 **7** to Mets - Willets Point

QUEENS Museums and Cultural Institutions

Sculpture Center

44-19 Purves St. East of Jackson Ave

Long Island City, NY, 11101

(718) 361-1750


sculpture-center.org

Pay As You Wish

Mon 11am - 6pm Thu-Sun 11am-6pm

Sculpture Center is a contemporary art museum

Directions:

 to Court Sq

Sidewalk Clock



30-78 Steinway St. Historic District

Queens, NY 11367

Landmark

Installed in 1922, this is one of two landmarked clocks in Queens and was purchased by Edward Wagner and moved from Manhattan to the front of his jewelry store.

Directions:

 to Steinway St  to 30th Ave

New York Hall of Science

47-01 111th St

Corona, NY 11368

(718) 699-0005


nysci.org

Free Admissions Fridays, 2 – 5 pm and Sundays, 10 – 11 am.

Free hours are suspended during World Maker Faire.

Located in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in the borough of Queens, in the section of the park that is in Corona. It occupies one of the few remaining structures from the 1964 New York World's Fair and is New York City's only hands-on science and technology center. The more than 400 hands-on exhibits explore biology, chemistry, and physics.

Directions:

 To 111th St

QUEENS Museums and Cultural Institutions

Astoria Farmers Market

14th Street between 31st Avenue & 31st Road

Queens, NY 11106

(212) 788-7476

grownyc.org/greenmarket/queens/astoria

Open Wednesdays, July through mid-November 8 am – 3 pm.

Free Admission

A small weekday market with an excellent selection of fruits and vegetables that draw a large number of shoppers from the surrounding neighborhood and nearby WIC center. Shoppers will find a wide selection of vegetables, in-season orchard fruit, and a terrific variety of Mexican hot peppers, specialty greens and tomatillos.

Directions:

Q N to Broadway.



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.

- **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.

QUEENS Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Venues

Curtis “50 Cent” Community Garden

117-15 – 117-09 165th Street (Foch Boulevard)

Queens, NY 11434

nyrp.org/green-spaces/garden-details/curtis-50-cent-community-garden

Free Admission

Giving back to his childhood neighborhood and the community that has supported him over the years, rap-sensation Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson joined forces with New York Restoration Project (NYRP) Founder and performer Bette Midler to breathe new life into this much needed green space.

Directions:

Q111 Q113 Q114 to Guy R Brewer Blvd/Foch Blvd

Q5 Q64 to Merrick Blvd/Foch Blvd

Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street

Flushing, NY 11355

(718) 886-3800

queensbotanical.org

Admission Low Cost:

\$4 Adult; \$3 Seniors

\$2 Students with ID and Children over 3.

Queens Botanical Garden is an urban oasis where people, plants and cultures are celebrated through inspiring gardens, innovative educational programs and demonstrations of environmental stewardship.

Directions:

7 to Flushing - Main St, or **Q20 Q44** to Main St & Elder Ave

QUEENS Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Venues

Gantry Plaza State Park Playground

4-09 47th Rd at the East River
Hunter's Point Long Island City
Queens, NY 10007
(212) 866-3100
parks.ny.gov/parks/149/details

Free Admission

Gantry Plaza State Park boasts spectacular views of the midtown Manhattan skyline, including the Empire State Building and the United Nations. Recreational facilities include basketball courts, playgrounds, handball courts, and a fishing pier with its own cleaning table.

Directions:

7 to Vernon Blvd - Jackson 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

Queens Central Public Library

89-11 Merrick Blvd
Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 990-0700
queenslibrary.org

Other Branches

Arverne Library

312 Beach 54 Street
Arverne, NY 11692
(718) 634-4784

Astoria Library

14-01 Astoria Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11102
(718) 278-2220

Auburndale Library

25-55 Francis Lewis Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11358
(718) 352-2027

Bayside Library

214-20 Northern Boulevard
Bayside, NY 11361
(718) 229-1834

Bay Terrace Library

18-36 Bell Boulevard
Bayside, NY 11360
(718) 423-7004

Bellerose Library

250-06 Hillside Avenue
Bellerose, NY 11426
(718) 831-8644

Briarwood Library

85-12 Main Street
Briarwood, NY 11435
(718) 658-1680

Broad Channel Library

16-26 Cross Bay Boulevard
Broad Channel, NY 11693
(718) 318-4943

Broadway Library

40-20 Broadway
Long Island City, NY 11103
(718) 721-2462

Ozone Park Library

92-24 Rockaway Boulevard
Ozone Park, NY 11417
(718) 845-3127

Cambria Heights Library

218-13 Linden Boulevard
Cambria Heights, NY 11411
(718) 528-3535

Central Library

89-11 Merrick Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 990-0700

Corona Library

38-23 104 Street
Corona, NY 11368
(718) 426-2844

Court Square Library

25-01 Jackson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 937-2790

Douglaston/Little Neck Library

249-01 Northern Boulevard
Little Neck, NY 11363
(718) 225-8414

East Elmhurst Library

95-06 Astoria Boulevard
East Elmhurst, NY 11369
(718) 424-2619

Elmhurst Library

85-08 51 Ave
Elmhurst, NY 11373
(718) 271-1020

Far Rockaway Library

1637 Central Avenue
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(718) 327-2549

Flushing Library

41-17 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355
(718) 661-1200

Fresh Meadows Library

193-20 Horace Harding Expressway
Fresh Meadows, NY 11365
(718) 454-7272

Glen Oaks Library

256-04 Union Turnpike
Glen Oaks, NY 11004
(718) 831-8636

Hollis Library

202-05 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423
(718) 465-7355

Jackson Heights Library

35-51 81 Street
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
(718) 899-2500

Langston Hughes Library

100-01 Northern Boulevard
Corona, NY 11368
(718) 651-1100

Lefferts Library

103-34 Lefferts Boulevard
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
(718) 843-5950

Long Island City Library

37-44 21 Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 752-3700

McGoldrick Library

155-06 Roosevelt Av. (off Northern Blvd)
Flushing, NY 11354
(718) 461-1616

Mitchell-Linden Library

31-32 Union Street
Flushing, NY 11354
(718) 539-2330

Peninsula Library

92-25 Rockaway Beach Boulevard
Rockaway Beach, NY 11693
(718) 634-1110

Poppenhusen Library

121-23 14 Avenue
College Point, NY 11356
(718) 359-1102

Forest Hills Library

108-19 71 Avenue
Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 268-7934

Glendale Library

78-60 73 Place
Glendale, NY 11385
(718) 821-4980

Hillcrest Library

187-05 Union Turnpike
Flushing, NY 11366
(718) 454-2786

Howard Beach Library

92-06 156 Avenue
Howard Beach, NY 11414
(718) 641-7086

Kew Gardens Hills Library

71-34 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11367
(718) 261-6654

Laurelton Library

134-26 225 Street
Laurelton, NY 11413
(718) 528-2822

Lefrak City Library

98-30 57 Avenue
Corona, NY 11368
(718) 592-7677

Maspeth Library

69-70 Grand Avenue
Maspeth, NY 1137
(718) 639-5228

Middle Village Library

72-31 Metropolitan Avenue
Middle Village, NY 11379
(718) 326-1390

North Forest Park Library

98-27 Metropolitan Avenue
Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 261-5512

Pomonok Library

158-21 Jewel Avenue
Flushing, NY 11365
(718) 591-4343

Queens Library for Teens

2002 Cornaga Ave
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(718) 471-2573

MTA New York City Subway

with bus and railroad connections

Key

- Part-line extension
- Local service only
- All rights flex (local and express service)
- Free subway transfer from non-subway transfer
- Free subway transfer (local and express service)
- Commuter rail service
- Bus connections
- Short-run express
- Subway transfer (excluding single ride ticket)
- (N) = northbound/uptown only
- (S) = southbound/downtown only

Station Name

To/away service more clearly, geography on this map has been modified. © 2014 MTA. www.mta.info

MTA New York City Transit Subway Service

A 8 Avenue Express	L 14 St-Canarsie Local	1 Broadway/77th Local
B 6 Avenue Express	M Nassau Street Express	2 7 Avenue Express
C 6 Avenue Local	N Nassau Street Express	3 7 Avenue Express
D 6 Avenue Express	O Broadway Local	4 Lexington Av Express
E 6 Avenue Local	P Broadway Express	5 Lexington Av Express
F 6 Avenue Local	R Broadway Local	6 Lexington Av Local
G 6 Avenue Local	S Broadway Local	7 Flushing Local
H 6 Avenue Local	T Franklin Av Shuttle	
I 6 Avenue Local	U 42 St Shuttle	
J 6 Avenue Local		
K 6 Avenue Local		
L 6 Avenue Local		
M 6 Avenue Local		
N 6 Avenue Local		
O 6 Avenue Local		
P 6 Avenue Local		
Q 6 Avenue Local		
R 6 Avenue Local		
S 6 Avenue Local		
T 6 Avenue Local		
U 6 Avenue Local		
V 6 Avenue Local		
W 6 Avenue Local		
X 6 Avenue Local		
Y 6 Avenue Local		
Z 6 Avenue Local		

Brooklyn-Queens Crosstown Local

Subway service may vary by time of day. Call 511 for travel and accessible service information, 24 hours a day. Check mta.info for the most up-to-date list of accessible stations.



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