



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.



Places to Visit in the

BRONX

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.

BRONX Museums and Cultural Institutions

48th Police Precinct Station

1925 Bathgate Ave
Bronx, New York 10457
(718) 299-3900
Historic Building built in 1901.

The 48th Police Precinct Station, designed in 1900 by Horgan & Slattery and completed in 1901, is an excellent example of Italian Renaissance Revival municipal architecture. The station survives as a prominent architectural landmark in the East Tremont section of the Bronx.

Directions:

2 **5** to Tremont Ave/West Farms Sq to Bx 42 bus to E Tremont/3rd Ave

Bartow-Pell Mansion and Carriage House and Landmark

895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park
Bronx, NY 10464
(718) 885-1461
bartowpellmansionmuseum.org
Free Admission for Garden Grounds
For Mansion: Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
\$5 for adults
\$3 for seniors & students
free for children under six

Built 1836, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, with its splendid Greek Revival interiors, is tucked away in a lovely, quiet corner of Pelham Bay Park – an area that was once home to more than 20 elegant country estates. As the only grand country house still in existence on Pelham Bay, it provides an important link to the social and architectural history of New York.

Directions:

6 to Buhre Ave, Bx8 bus to Dean Ave/Lafayette Ave

BRONX Museums and Cultural Institutions

Bronx Borough Courthouse

East 161st Street, Third and Brook Avenues
Bronx, New York 10451

The Bronx Borough Courthouse is a U.S. National Historic Place and a New York City landmark. It was built between 1905 and 1914 in Melrose near Boston Road, Third Avenue, St. Anns Avenue and 161st Street.

Directions:

4 **D** to 161st St - Grand Concourse

Bronx Museum of the Arts

1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St
Bronx, NY 10456
(718)-681-6000
bronxmuseum.org
Free Admission

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is a contemporary art museum that connects diverse audiences to the urban experience through its permanent collection, special exhibitions, and education programs. The Bronx Museum of the Arts is dedicated to providing all visitors access to its contemporary art collection and exhibitions.

Directions:

D **4** **5** **2** to 167th St

Derfner Judaica Museum

Jacob Reingold Pavilion, Hebrew Home, Riverdale
5901 Palisades Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471
(718) 581-1000
riverspringhealth.org/derfner-judaica-museum
Free Admission

The Derfner Judaica Museum is a cultural and educational center that offers great exhibitions relating to Jewish history and contemporary Jewish culture.

Directions:

1 to 231st St, then Bx10 bus to Riverdale Ave & 261st St

1 to Marble Hill Ave/228th St, then Bx7 bus to Riverdale Ave & 261st St

4 to Bedford Park/Lehman College, then Bx10 bus to Riverdale Ave & 261st St

BRONX Museums and Cultural Institutions

Fordham University Museum of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Art

Rose Hill Campus
441 E Fordham Rd
Bronx, NY 10458
718-817-3590
library.fordham.edu/resources/fordhammuseum
Free Admission

The Fordham Museum of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Art features more than 260 antiquities dating from the 10th century B.C. through the 3rd century A.D. The collection spans several periods, Mycenaean, Villanovan, Classical Greece, Geometrical, Archaic Roman, Imperial Roman, Republican, Etruscan, South Italian.

Directions:

D to Fordham Rd

Hall of Fame for Great Americans

2155 University Ave
Bronx, NY 10453
(718) 289-5100
Free Admission, Donation Recommended

The original “Hall of Fame” for Great Americans is also known as a New York Landmark to honor prominent Americans who have had a significant impact on this nation’s history.

Directions:

4 **D** to 183rd St



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.

BRONX Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Venues



Bronx Zoo

2300 Southern Blvd
Bronx, NY 10460
(718) 220-5100
bronxzoo.com

Wednesday Admission Pay As You Wish

The Bronx Zoo connects families, children, and adults to wildlife. With the Bronx Zoo's friendly environment you will enjoy the full experience and witness exhibits and attractions unfold.

Directions:

  to East Tremont Ave/West Farms Sq

Crotona Park

1700 Crotona Ave
(718) 378-2061
nycgovparks.org/parks/crotona-park

Crotona Park, named after the Greek colony of Croton, is known for its 28 tree species and beautiful 3.3 acre lake, which is home to turtles, ducks, and fish.

Directions:

  to Freeman St  to Claremont Pkwy

Jerome Avenue Market

Mullaly Park Bet. River Ave & McClellan
8am - 4pm Fridays starting June 27th to Nov 21st

Harvest Home Farmer's Market is a NYC non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to local, farm-fresh produce for low-income neighborhoods.

Directions:

  to 161st St - Yankee Stadium

BRONX Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Venues

The New York Botanical Gardens

2900 Southern Blvd

Bronx, NY 10458

(718) 817-8716

nybg.org

Free Admission to the grounds Wednesday and Saturday 9-10 am

The New York Botanical Garden is a giant plant kingdom. The Garden provides more than just a beautiful nature experience but also takes the role of a museum of plant collections.

Directions:

D to Norwood - 205th St

Orchard Beach

Long Island Sound in Pelham Bay Park

(718) 885-2275

nycgovparks.org/parks/pelham-bay-park/facilities/beaches

Free Admission

Orchard Beach is a free public beach near Pelham Bay Park and situated on the western end of Long Island Sound. Enjoy the sun and assorted events, playgrounds, and fun.

Directions:

6 to Pelham Bay Park, then BX29

La Familia Verde Farmers Market

East Tremont & LaFontaine Aves

lafamiliaverde.org

8 am - 2 pm Tuesdays

La Familia Verde is a Community Garden Coalition and Resource Center known for its Farmers Market which provides fresh produce from 5 community farms. Join the celebration all summer long.

Directions:

2 **4** **5** to 149th St - Grand Concourse **6** to 3rd Ave - 138th St

BRONX Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Venues

Target Bronx Community Garden

1025 Anderson Avenue

Bronx, NY 10452

nyp.org/green-spaces/garden-details/target-bronx-community-garden

Open up to 20 hours minimum per week

Founded in 1982, this open space has long been used by local gardeners to raise a variety of vegetables and fruit, including tomatoes, corn and pears, and to harvest apples from the garden's beloved, mature apple tree.

Directions:

B **4** to 161st St - Yankee Stadium

Van Cortlandt Park

Van Cortlandt Park South bet. Broadway and Jerome Ave

Bronx, NY 10462

(718) 430-1890

nycgovparks.org/parks/VanCortlandtPark

Free Admission

Van Cortlandt Park is a beautiful park in the heart of the Bronx near the Westchester County line, the park is great for picnics and playground fun.

Directions:

1 **4** to Van Cortlandt Park - 242nd St

Wave Hill

675 West 252nd Street

Bronx, NY 10471

(718) 549-3200

wavehill.org

Free Admission

Wave Hill is a public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades in the Bronx. Wave Hill's vibrant landscape is one of the most beautiful places in New York City.

Directions:

1 to the end of the line at West 242nd Street. A free Wave Hill shuttle van meets passengers on the west side of Broadway in front of Burger King.

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

Bronx Library Center

310 East Kingsbridge Road (at Briggs Avenue)

Bronx, NY 10458

(718) 579-4244

nypl.org

Other Branches

Allerton Library

2740 Barnes Ave

Bronx, NY 10467

(718) 881-4240

Baychester Library

2049 Asch Loop North

Bronx, NY 10475

(718) 379-6700

Belmont Library and Enrico Fermi Cultural Center

610 E. 186th Street

Bronx, NY 10458

(718) 933-6410

Castle Hill Library

947 Castle Hill Avenue (at Bruckner Blvd.)

Bronx, NY 10473

(718) 824-3838

City Island Library

320 City Island Ave

Bronx, NY 10464

(718) 885-1703

Clasons Point Library

320 City Island Ave

Bronx, NY 10464

(718) 842-1235

Eastchester Library

1385 E Gun Hill Rd

Bronx, NY 10469

(718) 653-3292

Francis Martin Library

2150 University Avenue (at 181st St.)

Bronx, NY 10453

(718) 295-5287

Grand Concourse Library

155 E 173rd St

Bronx, NY 10457

(718) 583-6611

High Bridge Library

78 West 168th Street (at Woodycrest Ave.)

Bronx, NY 10452

(718) 293-7800

Hunts Point Library

877 Southern Boulevard

Bronx, NY 10459

(718) 617-0338

Jerome Park Library

118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Rd.)

Bronx, NY 10468

(718) 549-5200

Kingsbridge Library

291 W 231st St

Bronx, New York 10463

(718) 548-5656

Melrose Library

910 Morris Ave

Bronx, NY 10451

(718) 588-0110

Morris Park Library

985 Morris Park Avenue (between Radcliff and Colden Aves.)

Bronx, NY 10462

(718) 931-0636

Morrisania Library

610 East 169th Street (at Franklin Ave.)

Bronx, NY 10456

(718) 589-9268

Mosholu Library

285 East 205th Street
Bronx, NY 10467
(718) 882-8239

Mott Haven Library

321 E 140th St
Bronx, NY 10454
(718) 665-4878

Parkchester Library

1985 Westchester Avenue (at Pugsley Ave.)
Bronx, NY 10462
(718) 829-7830

Pelham Bay Library

3060 Middletown Road
Bronx, NY 10461
(718) 792-6744

Riverdale Library

5540 Mosholu Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471
(718) 549-1212

Sedgwick Library

1701 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (at W. 176th St.)
Bronx, NY 10453
(718) 731-2074

Soundview Library

660 Soundview Avenue (at Seward Ave.)
Bronx, NY 10473
(718) 589-0880

Spuyten Duyvil Library

650 W. 235th St. (at Independence Ave.)
Bronx, NY 10463
(718) 796-1202

Throg's Neck Library

3025 Cross Bronx Expressway Extension
(at E. Tremont Ave.)
Bronx, NY 10465
(718) 792-2612

Tremont Library

1866 Washington Avenue (at E. 176th St.)
Bronx, NY 10457
(718) 299-5177

Van Cortlandt Library

3874 Sedgwick Avenue (south of Mosholu Parkway)
Bronx, NY 10463
(718) 543-5150

Van Nest Library

2147 Barnes Avenue (near Pelham Parkway South)
Bronx, NY 10462
(718) 829-5864

Wakefield Library

4100 Lowerre Place (at E. 229th St.)
Bronx, NY 10466
(718) 652-4663

West Farms Library

2085 Honeywell Avenue (between E. 179th & 180th Sts.)
Bronx, NY 10460
(718) 367-5376

Westchester Square Library

2521 Glebe Avenue
Bronx, NY 10461
(718) 863-0436

Woodlawn Heights Library

4355 Katonah Avenue (at E. 239th St.)
Bronx, NY 10470
(718) 519-9627

Woodstock Library

761 East 160th Street (west of Prospect Ave.)
Bronx, NY 10456
(718) 665-6255

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)
- Bus connections
- Commuter rail service
- Normal service
- Additional express service

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This guide was produced with the generous support of the NYC Administration for Children's Services and the CUNY Service Corps program. Special thanks to CUNY Service Corps interns Amera Rime-Lulu, Anmol Kaur and Amanda Ernano.



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