

2019 PAA Survey Results Neighborhood Recommendations

PAA members voted for their favorite family-oriented places, activities and experiences-from neighborhood restaurants, shops, sports classes, playgrounds and parks to doctors, dentists and more-- via our annual survey in the spring of 2019; below are the results. Please note that the most commonly recommended items are ranked with numbers; others are bulleted. PAA member quotations are listed in quotes after recommendations.

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Favorite Playground



1. <u>John Jay Park</u>: FDR drive from East 76-78th Streets – "Has more to offer than other neighborhood playgrounds." "Great especially in summer for water play." "Fun sprinklers."

Other recommended playgrounds:

- <u>Central Park</u> Playgrounds:
 - o Ancient Playground, East 85th Street off of Fifth Avenue:
 - <u>Billy Johnson Playground</u>, East 67th Street and 5th Ave: "Recently reopened with the best slide in NYC."
 - Diana Ross Playground, West 81st Street off of Central Park West: "Big playground with fun climbing net, bridges, firepoles, slides and ladders plus a sprinkler. Great if you are visiting the American Museum of Natural History."
 - East 72nd Street playground, East 72nd Street and 5th Ave
 - Hecksher Playground, 61st-63rd Street, mid park: "Rock climbing for older kids." "There is a bathroom here!"
- St. Catherine's Park, 1st Ave between 67/68 Streets: "Go early morning on weekends to ride bikes or scouter on the basketball courts."

Recommended Indoor Play Areas/Spaces (especially for rainy days)

1. The Playroom, 1439 1st Avenue at 75th Street – "Great fun for under 5s."

Other recommended indoor play spaces:

- 92 Street Gymmaze. 1395 Lexington Ave at 92 St: "For ages 2-5."
- The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park W & 79th St: "An easy place to spend a few hours with the kids when the weather is bad, especially in the kids' Discovery Room."
- Art Farm In the City: 19 E. 91st Street.
- Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 W 83rd St.
- PAA Playroom, 435 E 70th Street.
- Twinkle Play space, 144 Frost St, Brooklyn, NY. "way better prices and sometimes on Kidpass)

Recommended Activities for Families



- The American Museum of Natural History: Central Park W & 79th St "Great for families and good family programs." "Love the Planetarium."
- American Airpower Museum: Long Island "military planes and helicopters in hanger, hobby dioramas and installations. Enthusiastic veterans give tours"
- Arthur Ross Terrace at the The American Museum of Natural History: near 81st Street and Columbus - "An almost secret water playground with huge fountain sprays just outside AMNH"
- Bronx Zoo, "then Arthur Ave for Italian takeout at Dominick's (indoor seating if kids 5 and older)"

- Central Park zoo, especially Tisch Children's Zoo: 64th St and 5th Ave
- Ferry right from 34th st to Brooklyn
- National Museum of Mathematics: 11 East 26th Street
- National Geographic Encounter
- M&M store: @ Broadway and 48th "Surprisingly fun."
- The New York Botanical Garden: 2900 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY "The holiday train show is a family favorite."
- New York Public Library Early Literacy Programs, various "Free, for all ages."
- Riding the Roosevelt island tram: E 59th St & 2nd Avenue "After the fun ride/ great view, bring a picnic and let the kids run at Four Freedoms Park."
- SeaGlass Carousel: Water St & State Street @ Battery Park
- Society of Illustrators: 128 East 63rd Street "for older kids"
- Staten Island Ferry: "It's free and you get a view of the Statue of Liberty!"
- Victorian Gardens at Wollman Rink, Central Park "A fun amusement park for pre-K and elementary school kids in Central Park."

Favorite Art Experiences

1. Craft Studio: 1657 3rd Ave.

Other recommended art venues and experiences:

- Art Farm In the City: 19 E. 91st Street.
- Children's Museum of the Arts (CMA): 103 Charlton St. NYC "Brilliant for kids but hard to get to from UES."
- Guggenheim Museum, 1071 5th Avenue at 89th Street "Guggenheim Museum Kids and Family events, especially stroller tours for 0-2 year olds (but single strollers only)."
- <u>Metropolitan Museum of Art</u> (Met): 1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street- "Sackler Wing with the The Temple of Dendur"; "Children's <u>classes</u> and free <u>Start with Art</u> <u>classes</u> for 3-6 year olds."
- MoMA: 11 W 53rd St "Hands-on Art Lab and MoMA Kids and families programs."
- PAA art classes, 435 E 70th Street.
- Sotheby's, 1334 York Avenue: "So close and free."

Favorite Theatre and Cultural Events



1. \$1 movies on UES theater in summer, 86th steet

Other recommended art venues and experiences:

- Frozen on Broadway- "so great for kids 4+, not a fan of shows but this one was well done!"
- New Victory Theater
- Lincoln Square IMAX
- Carnegie Hall Kids/ Family events "For ages 2-10."
- Christmas Spectacular with the Rockettes
- Galli Theatre, 151 W. 26th Street, 7th Floor in the Gloria Maddox Theater: "Fun and interactive theatre events for kids."
- Lincoln Center kids events "Some are free."

Educational Classes, Daycares and Preschools, and Summer Camps



Daycare and Preschool

1. **PAA-sponsored Play-and-Learn Cooperative (PAL)** – "PAL is great!" "Good quality, affordable and convenient!"

Other recommended daycare and preschools:

- Art Farm Preschool: 351 E. 74th St.- "Art Farm Preschool shares a space with IKEN on 74th street. We've been incredibly happy with the preschool.
- Bright Horizons in Payson House: 435 E 70th Street, 2nd floor.
- House of Little People Too: "family run, nice and affordable"
- Central Synagogue
- William Woodward
- Church of the Epiphany Day School: 1393 York Ave "Warm and nurturing preschool with a community focus but expensive."
- Renanim Preschool: 336 East 61st Street (18 months to 4 years)
- Temple Israel ECLC: 112 E. 75th Street.

Pre-K and Elementary

- PS 183: 419 E 66th St -
- PS 6: 45 E 81st St
- Ella Baker
- William Woodward: 435 E 70th St "Personalized education, lots of experience"

After school classes for elementary or older-aged children

- Acting Like a Kid: @ PS 183, 419 East 66th St
- Simply Sports
- <u>Drama Kids</u>: @ PS 183, 419 East 66th St "Engaging, kids develop confidence and enhance social skills"
- Kids in Sports: 1420 2nd Ave
- Kids on Wheels: @ PS 183, 419 East 66th St "Skate boarding and roller blading classes for elementary aged kids."
- Wingspan Arts: @ PS 183, "Wide variety of creative afterschool classes"

Music and Arts classes

• **Ajna Dance:** 500 8th Ave - (Indian dance class for kids and adults)

- Craft Studio: 1657 3rd Ave
 Little Maestros: 344 E 69th St
- Little Rockstars
- ABC-DO-RE-MI
- Pineapple Explorers
- **PAA classes,** 435 E 70th Street
- WeBop University at the Jazz Academy: Lincoln Center, 10 Columbus Circle

Summer camps or holiday / school vacation camps

- NYC City Parks: "only \$500 for whole summe but on lottery system"
- Mount Vernon Hotel Museum's History Weeks Camp
- Lenox Hill Real Arts: "hidden gem"
- Sacred Heart CAA
- 92nd Y: 1395 Lexington Ave
- Asphalt Green: 555 E 90th St
- Central Park Zoo Educational Programs ages 2 yrs + up
- Elite Gymnastics: 421 E 91st St
- <u>Elmwood Day Camp</u>: 900 Dobbs Ferry Rd, White Plains, NY "busing available to camp grounds in Westchester, absolutely phenomenal place to spend the summer for a kid!"
- Kids at Art: 1412 2nd Ave.

Neighborhood Sports



Sports Classes

- 92 Y GymMaze: 1395 Lexington Ave
- Elite Gymnastics: 421 E 91st St
- Fastbreak Kids: 1629 1st Avenue
- **Gymtime:** 1520 York Ave.
- Kids in Sports: 1420 2nd Ave.
- PAA Rug Rats sports: St. Catherine's park.
- PAA Dance
- Physique swimming: 25 Broadway "Through kidpass."

- Sokol New York: 420 E 71st St: "Great drop in rates" "Old school teaching with community spirit."
- Jody's Gym
- Modern Martial Arts Karate



Swim Classes

1. <u>Asphalt Green</u>: "classes for ages 4 months + up" "kids pool w/ adjustable depth according to height."

Other recommended swim classes:

- 14th Street YMCA swimming classes "A bit of a hike but the swim lessons are half the price of those at 92nd!"
- Kid Pass, swimming at 66th and 2nd Ave
- Penguin City Swim: 305 East 86th St "Responsive and the instructors are friendly."
- Physique swimming: 25 Broadway "Good deal through Kid Pass"
- SwimJim

Pools and Beaches

- <u>John Jay Park pool</u>: East of York Avenue on 77th St. "Great to have a public pool on the UES but it is a bummer that there is no shallow end for kids."
- Coney Island.
- Far Rockaway "Surfing!!!"
- Greenwich National Park, CT.
- Jones Beach: Wantagh, NY.
- Sandy Hook: New Jersey.

Birthday Party Recommendations

- 16 Handles: 1161 1st Avenue
- 92nd Street Y:1395 Lexington Ave
- Field House at Chelsea Piers: "lots of options and they are pros at this"
- Pier 25 in Tribeca "throw fun and low cost party at Manhattan's only 18-hole mini golf course plus playground"
- Kidville
- Build-a-Bear
- NY Kids Club
- Art Farm In the City: 19 E. 91st Street
- Bowlmor Lanes: 222 W 44th St
- Central Park: "For low-key celebrations outside."
- Construction Kids, 63 Flushing Ave, Brooklyn: "A unique and special experience -- kids are guided to use real tools to build and create."
- Garden at Church of the Epiphany, 1393 York Ave: "Great for an outdoor party."
- **GymTime**,: 1520 York Ave
- Kids at Art: 1412 2nd Ave
- Magic Activity Center: 510 E 74th St

Birthday supply websites: Amazon.com, <u>Balloon Saloon</u>, <u>Birthday In a Box</u>, <u>Hollar</u>, <u>Oriental trading Company</u>, <u>Party City</u>.

Local party supplies stores: Modern State 1243 3rd Ave and Rainbow Hardware (1449 1st Avenue).

Birthday party entertainment: Magician <u>Magic Evan</u> – "Awesome magician plus he has a great website with party planning tips and ideas."

Outdoor party venues:

- o <u>Arthur Ross Pinetum Playground</u>, Central Park between 84th and 86th: picnic tables, open space to roam, swings, fairly close to a bathroom.
- o <u>Billy Johnson Playground</u>, <u>Central Park</u>: East 67th Street and 5th Ave: A picnic table and green grass on which to picnic, giant sandbox and swings, water sprinklers, a giant granite slide, fairly close to a bathroom.
- o <u>Carl Schurz Park</u>, East End Av To East River, E 84 St To E 90 St: fully-equipped playground, green grass on which to picnic, room to roam or ride scooters / bicycles along the East River, a pair of restrooms.
- o <u>Hecksher Playground</u>, <u>Central Park</u>: 61st-63rd Street, mid park: picnic tables, fully-equipped playground, water sprinklers, bathrooms, and the bonus of Umpire Rock to climb.
- o **John Jay Park**: FDR drive from East 76-78th Streets: picnic tables, fully-equipped playground, water sprinklers, bathrooms
- o <u>St. Catherine's Park</u>: 1st Ave between 67/68 Streets: picnic tables, fully-equipped playground, water sprinklers, bathrooms

Children's Stores

- Hom Bom Toys
- BuyBuyBaby/Bed Bath Beyond
- TJ Maxx
- Mary Arnolds
- Modern State
- Janie & Jack
- Party City
- Dollar Tree
- Rainbow Hardware
- Lester's

Helpful Online Resources for Parents/Families

- Carnegie Hall At a Glance Weekly Concert Listing
- Groupon "for discounted kids and family activities"
- MacaroniKids
- Mommybites "for nanny ads"
- Jazz at Lincoln Center Newsletter
- Kidpass "for discounted kids activities"
- Lincoln Center Kids eNewsletter
- Mommy Poppins
- New York Public Library free events list
- NYC Parks Kids Events calendar
- PAA listserv
- Parents League "for private school"
- Petite Seat on Instagram
- Red Tricycle NYC
- Time Out Kids
- UES Mommas FB group "over 30,000 members!"

Day Getaways

- Bear Mountain State Park
- Seven Lake
- Long Beach Island
- **Stepping Stones**: "kids museum in Norwalk CT"
- Patterson NJ: "waterfalls are incredible, museums and lots of history, and amazing middle eastern food"

- Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6 playgrounds: Brooklyn Bridge Park Greenway, Brooklyn "This is our favorite NYC playground an unbelievable 'waterlab' sandbox 'village' plus slides and swings galore."
- Bronx Zoo: 2300 Southern Blvd, Bronx
- Coney Island beach and boardwalk (Brooklyn, NY) "Close to NYC: beach, boardwalk and rides (at <u>Luna Park</u>)." "Tip: if you have a membership to the Central Park zoo, you park for free at the NY Aquarium and then just hop over to the beach." "beach, aquarium, boardwalk, amusement park, tons of food"
- Connecticut
- The Farm at Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture Tarrytown, NY
- Governor's Island (New York Harbor, NY): "Take the ferry to Govenor's Island, a 172 acre island in the heart of New York Harbor, is only 800 yards from Lower Manhattan"
- Liberty Science Center, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ
- Long Island Aquarium, Long Island
- Long Island City
- New York Botanical Gardens (Bronx) "especially for train show and children's garden"
- Riamede Farm (Chester, NJ): "For apple picking."
- Ridgefield, CT
- Rockefeller State Park: Pleasantville, NY
- Westchester

Weekend Getaways and Vacation Spots



- Berkshires skiing
- Blackberry Farm (Walland, TN), 4,200-acre hotel & resort in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains – "Quick flight into Knoxville, easy to get to, great for adults alone or with kids, great outdoor activities, excellent on-site child care and summer camp, a Relais & Chateaux property with James Beard and Wine Spectator-award winning farm-to-table dining"
- Cape May, NJ

- Woodloch Pines
- Great Wolf Lodge (Pocono Mountains, PA): "Our toddler and elementary school-aged kids LOVE this water park."
- Hamptons
- Newport, RI
- Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, NY
- Philadelphia, PA: "Great art and history"
- Washington DC

Recommended Taxi/Car Service with Car Seat

- Uber Family
- Lyft: "You can request a car seat."
- LaGuardia airport car rental
- Jupiter

Favorite Neighborhood Take-out Restaurants

Tie for first place:

1) <u>Matsu</u> (Japanese, Sushi): 411 E 70th St between York and 1st Aves – "*Great lunch specials."* "Fast, healthy and good."

Others recommended:

- Anatolia
- Asian 83
- Bamboo: 1280 1st Avenue "sushi lunch special"
- Beach Café: 1326 2nd Ave
- Buttercup Bakery
- Cafe Luka: 1319 1st Ave b/t 71st St & 70th St
- Café Evergreen
- Gotham Pizza: 1443 York Ave
- Good Health: 1435 1st Ave
- Go Noodle Nine Moon: 1069 1st Ave "for chicken noodle soup"
- Greek Eats 2: 1229 1st Avenue
- Hunan Delight: 1467 York Ave "great lunch specials"
- Hummus Kitchen
- **Japan Express Food Truck**, usually parked at York between 71/72 Streets "Delicious and fresh hibachi stir frys at an unbeatable price."
- Moti Mahal Deluxe: 1149 1st Ave "Delicious"
- Nick's Pizza: 1814 2nd Ave



- Patsy's
- PQR: "I've tried every pizza and they're all delicious"
- Ravagh Persian Grill
- Sashimi Express: 354 E 78th StSweetgreen: 1321 1st Avenue
- **Up Thai** (Thai): 1411 2nd Ave b/t 73rd St & 74th St
- Yeti Spice Grill

Favorite Neighborhood Family-Friendly Restaurant

- 1. **BareBurger**: 1370 1st Ave b/t 73rd St & 74th St "especially the happy hour \$3 milkshakes."
- 2. Patsy's: 1279 1st Ave between 68/69th Streets "Our kids favorite hands down."

Others recommended:

- 5 Napkin Burger: 1325 2nd Ave
 Baker Street: 1152 1st Avenue
 Boqueria UES: 1460 2nd Ave
- Cafe Luka: 1319 1st Ave b/t 71st St & 70th St "Easy to get table, large selection."
- Calexico
- Delizia
- Donna Margherita NYC "under rated, never busy but amazing pizza and fresh pasta!"
- Evergreen: 1367 1st Avenue
- Green Kitchen
- Heidelberg: 1648 2nd Ave "kids love the food"
- Hunan Delight: 1467 York Ave "inexpensive and has room for a single jogging stroller!
- Imli
- Matsu: 411 E 70th St between York and 1st Aves
- The Meatball Shop: 1462 2nd Ave
 Numero 28 Pizzería: 1431 1st Avenue
- Padoca bakery: 359 E 68th St
- Per Lei: 1347 2nd Ave
- Petaluma
- Ravagh Persian Grill
- Shake Shack: 154 E 86th StTony di Napoli: 1081 3rd Ave
- Writing Room

Out of Neighborhood: Dim Sum Go Go in Chinatown is fun for family and delicious!

Favorite Neighborhood Restaurants and Cafes for Breakfast and Brunch



- August: 791 Lexington Ave between 61st and 62nd St
- Barking Dog
- B. Cafe
- Cafe Evergreen: 1367 1st Avenue between 73rd and 74th St
- Café Luka:1319 1st Ave, between 70th and 71st St
- The East Pole: The East Pole "Farm to Table"
- Effy's Kitchen: "whole table brown paper with crayons to draw"
- Ines: 419 E 74th St between 1st and York
- Le Moulin a Café: 1439 York Ave b/t 76/77 Streets
- Le Pain Quotidien: 1270 1st Ave between 68/69 "Child's menu is a great deal."
- Maison Kayser: 1294 3rd Ave
- Padoca: 359 E. 68th Street @ 1st Ave "my kids love basket of kids' books"
- Petaluma: "great adult and kids options"
- Quality Eats: "fancier but still family friendy with kids' menu and high chairs"
- Ritz Diner
- Sant Ambrœus Coffee Bar at Sotheby's: 1334 York Ave —"10th floor rooftop views with indoor/outdoor seating"
- The Smith: 956 2nd Ave @ 51 St
- Tavern62 by David Burke: 135 E 62nd St
- Treadwell Park: 1125 1st Ave @ 62nd St

Favorite Neighborhood Date Night Restaurants

• The East Pole: 133 E 65th St

Eastfields

• Felice: 1166 1st Ave at 64th Street

Flex Mussels

• Heidi's House: 308 E 78th St

• The Jeffrey Craft Beer & Bites: 311 E 60th St - "Happy Hour"

JoJo: 160 E 64th StKo Sushi: 1329 2nd Ave

• Matsu: 411 E 70th St between York and 1st Aves – "A stand-in if we are feeling lazy."

Maya: 1191 1st Ave between 64th St & 65th St

• Moti Mahal Deluxe: 1149 1st Ave

Nino's: 1354 1st Avenue

Oiji

Quality Eats

Ravagh Persian Grill

• Rosa Mexicana: 1063 1st Avenue

Serafina

Tanoshi Sushi Sake Bar: 1372 York Ave – "Hands down the best sushi experience on UES." "Tip: reserve far ahead"

Toloache

Up Thai: 1411 2nd Ave b/t 73rd St & 74th St
Uva: 1486 2nd Ave between 77/78 Streets

Two Lizards



Pediatric Doctor, Dentist and Other Health Care Providers



Pediatric Doctor

- Apple Pediatrics with specific recommendations for Dr. Farber: 157 E 72nd St
- <u>Manhattan Pediatrics</u>, with specific recommendations for <u>Dr. Sharon Ho and Dr. Snyder and Dr. Baker</u>: 125 East 72nd Street
- Mt. Sinai, Dr. Louis Monti
- NYU, Dr. Harris Burstin
- Pediatric Associates
- Tribeca Pediatrics, with specific recommendations for Dr. Belosa: 304 E 62nd St.
- **Uptown Pediatrics** (1245 Park Ave, and 96th St).
- <u>Weill Cornell Medicine Primary Care East Side</u>, with specific recommendations for Drs. Kercher, Pozzuoli, Ogden, Olivera, and Rowe: 215 E. 85th Street.
- Dr. Rebecca Farber

Pediatric Dentist

- Ava Thaw, DDS: 342 E 67th St, (212) 734-4298: "Solo practice family dentist, specializes in general density and prosthodontics. She and her assistant are great with kids and adults, especially those with dentist-phobias. Takes insurance.
- Jen Fountain, DDS: 150 E. 70th St, Ste 1E
- NYC 209 Dental
- Slim Dental Kids: 1400 York Ave.
- UES Smiles: 261 E 78th St.

Orthodontist: Dr. Ashi Adamjee: "accepts almost all insurance, ethicial and conservative. Also does Invisalign for adults"

Pediatric Allergist

- **Dr. Joyce** Yu: 505 E 70th St
- Dr. Edith Schussler, Weill Cornell