

Places to Go, Things to Do

<p>Museums look for library museum passes for discounted or free admission</p>	<p>Concord Museum, Concord museum of Concord history, best for older children, but some hands on elements and family events. Check out the Family Trees exhibit of Christmas trees decorated in children's book themes during the holiday season</p> <p>Orchard House, Concord historic home of the Alcotts, best for older children, but check calendar for preschool friendly events during the summer</p> <p>deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum, Lincoln free on the first Wednesday of the month; ARTfull Play program for ages 2-5 biweekly Wednesdays</p> <p>Wayside Inn, Sudbury historic grist mill and one room schoolhouse (of Mary Had a Little Lamb fame) with costumed interpreters, free</p> <p>Discovery Museums, Acton children's museum for youngsters and science museum for preschool+; free first Fridays of the month 4:30-8:30pm</p> <p>Fruitlands Museum, Harvard art museum and Shaker home; small children's room with costumes and craft project; beautiful vistas and some walking trails (best for a nice day)</p> <p>Gore Place, Waltham historic Federal home with extensive grounds to explore. Check calendar for family friendly weekend festivals</p> <p>American Textile History Museum, Lowell</p> <p>Ecotarium, Worcester science/nature museum with outdoor walking trails, playgrounds, and animals</p> <p>Larz Anderson Auto Museum, Brookline</p> <p>Harvard Museum of Natural History, Cambridge free for Massachusetts residents Sunday 9am-12pm</p> <p>Boston Children's Museum, Boston</p> <p>New England Aquarium, Boston</p> <p>Museum of Science, Boston</p> <p>U.S.S. Constitution, Boston tour Old Ironsides (free) and then check out the unaffiliated, but adjacent, U.S.S. Constitution Museum(not free, but kid friendly)</p> <p>SEE Science Center, Manchester NH</p> <p>Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge large recreated historic village circa 1830's with costumed interpreters and demonstrations</p> <p>Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth pilgrim village with costumed interpreters; short drive to downtown Plymouth with the Mayflower, Plymouth Rock, and the grist mill</p>
<p>Indoor Play</p>	<p>Hunt Gym, Concord 2015 Winter Family Open Gym, free, 1/5-3/26: M,Th 2-3pm, W 11am-12pm CFN sponsored playdate on winter Friday mornings</p> <p>BFC Playroom, Bedford run by the Bedford Family Connection; open most weekday mornings during the school year</p> <p>Jam Time, Maynard/Natick a favorite area play place; check calendar for CFN discount days once a month</p> <p>Loch Ness Play Center, Chelmsford</p> <p>One Stop Fun, Westford</p>

	<p>large network of tubes and tunnels, ball pits and slides, like a giant hamster cage. Best for kids 3+ who can navigate the tunnels themselves.</p> <p>BB Kidz Club, Westford</p> <p>VinKari Safari, Woburn</p> <p>The Klubhouse, Woburn</p> <p>Simon Malls, Burlington/Marlborough</p> <p>small toddler play areas</p> <p>Chuck E. Cheese, Burlington/Natick</p> <p>KidSpace, Belmont</p> <p>Run by a parent cooperative operating out of a church basement, this play space is open only during the winter. Surprisingly large and well-stocked for toddlers and preschoolers.</p> <p>SkyZone Indoor Trampoline Park, Westborough</p>
Arts & Crafts	<p>Emerson Umbrella, Concord</p> <p>check calendar for free or inexpensive family events</p> <p>Barefoot Books, Concord</p> <p>daily storytime/craft events, paint your own pottery studio</p> <p>Colorfull, Acton</p> <p>open studio hours for young children to create a changing selection of projects</p> <p>Art Signals, Maynard</p> <p>Paint your own pottery</p> <p>Wooden Toys and Crafts, Marlborough</p> <p>kits with wooden parts and nails; build in the store or take home</p> <p>Whimsy Arts and Crafts, Framingham</p> <p>craft kits sold with studio place to complete them</p> <p>Plaster Fun Time, Framingham/Waltham</p> <p>paint your own pottery</p>
Bowling	<p>Acton Bowladrome, Acton</p> <p>also has a large arcade room and a diner</p> <p>Kings Bowl, Burlington</p> <p>opening February 2015</p> <p>Harvard Lanes, Harvard</p>
Skiing	<p>Nashoba Valley Ski Area, Westford</p>
Ice Skating	<p>Valley Sports Arena, Concord</p> <p>Edge Sports Center, Bedford</p> <p>Nashoba Valley Olympia, Boxborough</p>
Mini Golf	<p>Trombetta's Farm, Marlborough (indoor)</p> <p>Kimball Farm, Westford (outdoor)</p>
Libraries check calendars for storytimes and events	<p>Concord Main/Fowler Libraries</p> <p>Gleason Library, Carlisle</p> <p>Lincoln Library</p> <p>includes small play area; better than average selection of museum passes</p> <p>Goodnow Library, Sudbury</p> <p>large children's department with toys and daily events</p> <p>Bedford Library</p> <p>Cary Memorial Library, Lexington</p> <p>Acton Memorial Library</p> <p>West Acton Citizen's Library</p> <p>Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough</p> <p>Maynard Library</p>
Theatre	<p>Concord Youth Theatre, Concord</p>

	<p>Open Door Theater, Acton Acton Cooperative Theatre, Acton Theatre With a Twist, Acton Lexington Youth Summer Theatre, Lexington Drawbridge Puppet Theatre, Lunenburg Puppet Showplace Theatre, Brookline Wheelock Family Theatre, Boston Stoneham Theatre, Stoneham Wellesley Theatre Project, Wellesley Arlington Children’s Theatre, Arlington Artbarn Community Theatre, Brookline Boston Children’s Theatre, Boston</p>
Movies	<p>Fine Arts Theatre, Maynard AMC Burlington 10, Burlington Regal Cinemas Solomon Pond, Marlborough</p>
Outdoor Play	<p>Minuteman National Park, Concord/Lexington South Bridge Boat House, Concord <i>canoe and kayak rentals</i> Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge, Concord Great Brook Farm, Carlisle <i>free tours of milking barn; see cows, pigs, sheep, goats, rabbits; ice cream stand open in season</i> Wolbach Farm/Sudbury Valley Trustees, Sudbury Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, Sudbury <i>small visitor center with dioramas and a nature table; Refuge Fledglings Hour, nature-themed program for ages 2-5, 4th Friday of the month</i> Acton Arboretum, Acton Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, Harvard Weezie’s Garden/Mass Horticultural Society, Wellesley Wellesley College Botanical Gardens, Wellesley Garden in the Woods, Framingham Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston Arnold Arboretum, Boston Swan Boats/Boston Public Garden, Boston</p>
Zoos & Animals	<p>Drumlin Farm, Lincoln <i>working educational farm, fun for a visit or a class or special program</i> Codman Community Farm, Lincoln <i>meat farm open for self-guided tours of the animal barns</i> Butterfly Place, Westford <i>best for older children as it requires quiet and stillness to appreciate</i> Animal Adventures, Bolton <i>animal sanctuary with lots of birds, reptiles, exotic animals; daily animal shows; look for a Groupon!</i> Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Natick Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary, Belmont Stone Zoo, Stoneham Davis Farmland, Sterling Wolf Hollow, Ipswich Franklin Park Zoo, Boston</p>

	<p>Roger Williams Zoo, Providence Southwick's Zoo, Mendon</p>
Farmstands (w/ Kid Appeal)	<p>Verrill Farm, Concord Chip In Farm, Bedford Wilson Farm, Lexington Marble Hill Farm, Stow</p>
Pick Your Own	<p>Verrill Farm, Concord <i>strawberries in early summer, pumpkins in fall</i> Silferleaf Farm, Concord <i>raspberries during the fall</i> Belkin Family Lookout Farm, Natick <i>major attraction with play areas, animals, rides; pyo apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, and plums</i> Doe Orchards, Harvard Westward Orchards, Harvard Honey Pot Hill, Stow Carver Hill Orchard, Stow Shelburne Farm, Stow Parlee Farms, Tyngsboro Tougas Farm, Northborough <i>apples, cherries, and berries</i> Pick Your Own listings</p>
Theme Parks	<p>Edaville USA, Carver <i>train plus carnival rides, some indoor kiddie rides and train tables</i> Canobie Lake Park, Salem NH Story Land, Glen NH Santa's Village, Jefferson NH</p>
Swimming *day use	<p>Walden Pond, Concord* <i>parking area fills to capacity on summer weekends and hot days</i> White Pond, Concord <i>members only, waiting list</i> Beede Center (indoor), Concord Emerson Pool, Concord <i>family memberships for summer evenings and weekends</i> Thoreau Club (indoor/outdoor), Concord Heritage Club, Concord <i>members only, long waiting list</i> Concord Country Club, Concord Nashawtuc Country Club, Concord Codman Pool, Lincoln Atkinson Pool (indoor), Sudbury* <i>check calendar for tot swim times</i> Springs Brook Park, Bedford* <i>pond, splash pad, and playground</i> Old Reservoir, Lexington* Town Pool, Lexington* Nara Park Beach, Acton* One Stop Fun, Westford* Edward's Beach, Westford* Forge Beach, Westford*</p>

	Long Lake , Littleton* Cochituate State Park , Wayland* Mirror Lake , Devens*
Playgrounds	Emerson Playground/Spray Fountain , Concord Rideout Playground , Concord Ripley Playscape , Concord Diment Park , Carlisle SMILE Playground , Sudbury <i>handicap-accessible</i> Community Playground , Bedford Lexington Playgrounds Acton Playgrounds Flerra Meadows , Boxborough Reo Road , Maynard Coolidge , Maynard Ronan's Playground , Westford <i>handicap-accessible</i> Elementary schools, various
Shopping	Barefoot Books , Concord Concord Bookshop , Concord Willow Books , Acton Barnes & Noble , Burlington Concord Toy Shop , Concord Learning Express Toys , Acton Buttons and Bows Consignment , Acton Build A Bear , Burlington & Natick Boston Drum Center , Acton Osmun Music , Acton The Minor Chord , Littleton
Restaurants	Comella's Asian Gourmet Chang An The Colonial Inn Helen's Restaurant Main Street Market & Cafe Papa Razzi 99 Restaurant & Pub Club Car Cafe Vincenzo's Nashoba Brook Bakery Concord Tea Cakes Bedford Farms Ice Cream Reasons to Be Cheerful Fern's Country Store , Carlisle Kimball Farm , Carlisle/Westford Atlantic Sea Grill , Acton Erikson's Ice Cream , Maynard Nancy's Airfield Cafe , Stow

Daycare	Licensed Early Education & Care listings
Preschools <i>enrollment typically begins in January for the following September</i>	The Barn Co-operative Nursery School The Children's Meeting House Concord Public Schools Integrated Preschool Concord Carousel Concord Children's Center Concord Montessori School LEAP School The Learning Experience Milldam Co-operative Nursery School Nashoba Brooks School
Family Friendly Events	Musketaquid Earth Day, April Patriots Day Parade, April Fourth of July Bicycle Parade and Picnic in the Park, July Holiday Parade with Caroling and Tree-Lighting, December
Event Listings	Action Unlimited Macaroni Kid First Connections <i>get on the email list</i>
Discounts	Library Museum Passes Groupon LivingSocial DoubleTakeOffers

Classes for Kids

Sports	CCYBS - Concord Carlisle Youth Baseball and Softball CCYBasketball - Concord Carlisle Youth basketball CCYH - Concord Carlisle Youth Hockey CCYL - Concord Carlisle Youth Lacrosse CCPopwarner - Concord Carlisle Pop Warner Football and Cheer CCYSoccer - Concord Carlisle Youth Soccer H2K Fitness Studio , Sudbury Tigger Soccer , Sudbury Revolution Community Yoga , Acton TruZen Yoga , Acton Teamworks , Acton
Gymnastics	Massachusetts Gymnastics Center , Sudbury Planet Gymnastics , Acton GAB , Acton 10.0 Academy , Stow Little Gym , Littleton
Martial Arts	Concord School of Taekwon-Do , Acton Wah Lum Kung Fu , Acton Moncreaff's Martial Arts , Acton Giorgio's TaeKwonDo , Sudbury
Tennis	All Seasons Tennis Club , Acton/Concord The Marcus Lewis Tennis Center , Acton Zip Zone Tennis , Wayland
Skating/Skiing	Sharper Edge Skating School , Concord Nashoba Valley Olympia , Boxborough The Edge Sports Center , Bedford Nashoba Valley Ski Area , Westford
Equestrian	Verrill Farm Stable , Concord Arrowhead Farm , Concord Water's Edge Farm , Concord Stoneymeade Farm , Concord North Gate Farm , Sudbury Hybid Farm , Acton Jelich Farms , Lexington Dunroven Farm , Concord
Swimming	Beede Swim & Fitness Center , Concord Atkinson Pool , Sudbury Pool School Plus , Bedford Acton Boxborough Community Ed , Acton Westford Racquet & Fitness Club , Westford Long Lake , Littleton (outdoor) 10.0 Academy , Stow (outdoor)
Music	Concord Carlisle Community Ed Concord Conservatory of Music Footnotes Music , Concord/Bedford/Acton Music Together of Assabet Valley , Maynard/Sudbury/Stow

	Indian Hill Music School , Littleton 77 Arts Academy , Acton Boston Drum Center , Acton Noteworthy Experiences , Sudbury The Minor Chord , Littleton
Art	Emerson Umbrella , Concord 77 Arts Academy , Acton Acton Art , Acton Colorfull , Acton Garro Studios , Maynard Red Shoe Arts , Maynard Beehive Art , Wayland
Cooking	Cooking with Mrs G , Maynard Minuteman High School Community Education , Lexington
Dance/Drama	Concord Youth Theatre , Concord Miss Helena , Concord West Concord Dance Academy , Concord Setting the Barre Dance Academy , Concord On Your Toes Dance & Theatre , Acton The Movement Center Dance Studio , Acton Acton School of Ballet , Acton Acton Boxborough Dance Center , Acton Dancer's Workshop , Sudbury The Performing Arts Connection , Sudbury Jennifer McGowan's Creative Dance , Stow
Toddler Playgroups	First Connections Concord Carlisle Community Education Minuteman ARC Infancy to Independence
Language/Academic	Concord Carlisle Community Education Les Oursons French for Kids , Acton Acton Chinese Language School , Acton
Miscellaneous	Jam Time , Maynard Boys & Girls Club , Maynard Empow Studios , Lexington One Stop Fun , Westford Linx , Wellesley Recreation Departments Community Ed Departments