

CHURCH STREET SCHOOL FOR MUSIC AND ART This nonprofit community arts institution offers a variety of music classes, including folk guitar, string ensemble and private lessons. Art classes and music and movement classes are also offered. **74 Warren Street, 212-571-7290, churchstreetschool.org. (Ages 16 months and up)**



CITIBABES The deluxe downtown club offers families a rich menu of children's and family classes, including art, cooking, dance, language, music, family yoga, sports, and science. New this year are a variety of classes for older children (ages 4 to 10 years) including "Namastar Yoga," which takes place in a dimmed room lit with stars drifting on the ceiling; "Lab Series," a rotating, thematic workshop featuring experts on everything from robots to circuses; "CitiCooks," a new cooking course that explores diverse and multicultural ingredients as well as the importance of healthy food choices; and "CitiDance Syles," a class with a ballet warm-up that soon transforms into the honing of exciting jazz dance skills. **52 Mercer Street, 3rd Floor, 212-334-5440, citibabes.com. (Ages 3 months to 10 years)**

COLUMBUS PRESCHOOL AND GYM Little ones learn special awareness with props and mirrors, while classes for older kids integrate fitness with arts and crafts, painting, stories and music. **606 Columbus Avenue, 212-721-0090, columbuspreschoolandgym.com. (Ages 12 months to 12 years)**

DISCOVERY PROGRAMS Discovery Programs offers a wide range of innovative and arts-based classes that inspire, educate and nurture children of all ages. Parent and child classes include Baby Gym, Music and the parent support group, Baby Talk. Early Childhood Programs, directed by leading educator Elaine Winter, offer 2-4 day programs for toddlers and preschoolers. These include Almost On My Own, On My Own, Practically Preschool and Summer Camp. After school, Discovery is busy with gymnastics, ballet, art, music, taekwondo, theatre and Action Hero Dance. **251 West 100th Street, 212-749-8717, discoveryprograms.com. (Ages newborn to tween)**

GYMBOREE PLAY & MUSIC Children experience legendary movement and sensory classes, plus music, art, developmental play and sports classes. A preschool alternative class focuses on social and intellectual skills using Leapfrog Schoolhouse products. Sports classes focus on the basics of eight sports. **Various locations in Manhattan, 877-496-5327, gymbooreeclasses.com. (Ages newborn to 5 years)**

GYMTIME RHYTHM & GLUES A longtime oasis for children's enrichment classes, Gymtime Rhythm & Glues offers children's classes in a space with state-of-the-art facilities and eco-friendly features. Classes include recreational and team gymnastics, art, music, cooking and taekwondo. Preschool education classes are also offered. This fall, Gymtime is adding a new state-of-the-art gym upstairs! **1520 York Avenue, 212-861-7732, gymtime.net. (Ages 6 months to 12 years)**

THE JCC IN MANHATTAN Covering infants through teens, the JCC's menu of activities is full of classes in art, dance, cooking, chess, computers, science, special needs, theater, and more. Sports classes, including yoga, karate and swimming, are also offered. Basketball courts are available for teams and pick-up games. **334 Amsterdam Avenue, 646-505-4444, jccmanhattan.org. (Ages newborn to 18 years)**

KIDS AT WORK Kids at Work offers economical drop-in Mommy-and-me classes for ages 0-4 in music and sensory art on weekdays and Saturdays. Classes focus on process-oriented and age-appropriate activities. **102 West 14th Street, #2, 347-933-8293, kidsatworknyc.com. (Ages newborn to 4 years)**



KIDVILLE Named "Best Tot Hot Spot" by New York Magazine, Kidville operates upscale facilities, catering to young children and their families. In addition to offering developmental classes for newborns through 6-year-olds, including Little Maestros, Run Wiggle Paint & Giggle, My Big Messy Art Class, Kidville Sports and Kidville University (Kidville's Pre-School Alternative Program), Kidville also features an indoor playspace, a retail boutique, the Kidville Salon and birthday parties for children up to age 9. **Various locations in Manhattan, 212-772-8435, kidville.com. (Ages newborn to 5 years)**

MANHATTAN MOVEMENT & ARTS CENTER Kids can take classes in different genres of dance, pursue their love for the stage in musical theater classes, or join the circus in their Circus Arts program. MMAC also offers dance, music, art, movement and fitness, and the Afro-Brazilian martial art known as Capoeira. **248 West 60th Street, 212-787-1178, manhattanmovement.com. (Ages 6 weeks to teens)**

MANHATTAN YOUTH'S DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER This community center for downtown families offers swim lessons, art classes, bookmaking, dance and fitness, language classes and more. **120 Warren Street, 212-766-1104, manhattanyouth.org. (Ages 6 months and up)**



American Museum of Natural History

months and up)

MOOMAH This whimsical playspace and café in Tribeca is all about inspiring quality family time: parents and kids can make art projects, play with toys and discovery kits and

What Will My Child Get Out Of An Art Class?

Zoë Greenbaum and Cyndie Bellen-Berthézène of HiArt! and Valentina Van Hise of The Art Farm in the City share the benefits of art classes for kids:

- A sense of themselves as active and creative participants in the real world
- Helps kids understand and value themselves as individual thinkers • Discipline, focus and follow-through
- Problem-solving skills: art means making choices
- A way to shake off the blues
- An opportunity to express themselves through artistic hands-on experiences in a warm environment where their work isn't judged
- A love and understanding of the arts as a reflection of what is great about us as humans
- Children learn to see, hear and appreciate the world around them with acuity and joy

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