

Adoption STAR is a not-for-profit adoption agency in New York, Ohio and Florida. The agency firmly believes that post adoption contact (open adoption), when appropriate, is what's best for all parties involved, especially the children.

Open adoption visits between adoptive families and birth families should be a time to celebrate the adoption journey and create relationships. These visits can be as simple as a picnic in the park or going swimming at a local pool, to theme parks and adventures. Below you will find an extensive list of open adoption visit ideas for that have been suggested by Adoption STAR clients and staff members in specific areas in New York, Ohio and Florida.

This list can be updated regularly, so if you have any suggestions that you do not see on the list, please email michael@adoptionstar.com with the subject "Open Adoption Visit Project" and we will work to add your idea.

Buffalo

Outdoor Activities

- Erie Canal Cruise – Lockport
 - o Sightseeing cruise that shows off history of Erie canal
 - o Phone: (315)717-0350
 - o Location: 800 Mohawk St. Herimer, NY
 - o Website: www.eriecanalcruises.com
- Maid of the Mist
 - o Boat ride through Niagara Falls
 - o Phone: (716)248-8897
 - o Location: (US shipping address)151 Buffalo Avenue. Niagara Falls, NY 14303
 - o Website: www.maidofthemist.com
- Go down to the river in Tonawanda for ice cream (Old Man River)
- Participate in the Ronald McDonald House 5k run and Fisher Price Place Space
 - o There is a 1k walk for children usually and the play space is set up next door at Canisius and always looks like lots of fun (MM)
 - o Race takes place Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 pm
 - o Contact Maureen Wopperer for more info: (716)883-1177
- Sledding at Chestnut Ridge
 - o Phone: (716)662-3290
 - o Location: 6121 Chestnut Ridge Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127
- Feed the ducks at Glen Falls/Ellicott Creek
- Sweet Jenny's
 - o Ice cream and desert shop
 - o Phone: 631-2424
 - o Location: 5732 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14221
- Town of Amherst Pool/Clearfield Splash Park
- Ice skating downtown at Fountain Plaza

- Outdoor ice rink, open through February 24
- Phone: (716)856-3150
- Website: www.buffaloplace.com/rotary-rink-fountain-plaza
- Botanical Gardens
 - Phone: (716)827-1584
 - Location: 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14218
- Website: <http://www.buffalogardens.com>
- Old Fort Niagara
 - Right on the Niagara River, For Niagara played important roles in the battles between France, Great Britain and the US in their quests to control the Great Lakes. Is a Historic landmark. Great place to visit, and has several events each month.
 - Phone: (716)745-7611
 - Website: <http://www.oldfortniagara.org>
- Buffalo Zoo
 - Phone: (716)837-3900
 - Location: 300 Parkside Ave. Buffalo, NY 14214
 - Website: <http://www.buffalozoo.org>
- Shakespeare in the Park
 - Outdoor performances of famous Shakespeare plays in Delaware Park
 - Phone: (716)856-4533
 - Location: Delaware Park, Buffalo
 - Website: www.shakespeareindelawarepark.org
- Erie Basin Marina
 - Phone: (716)851-6501
 - Location: 329 Erie St. Buffalo, NY, 14202
 - Website: <http://www.eriebasinmarina.org>
- LaSalle Park
 - Has "Off leash Dog Park"
 - Location: 101 Dart St. Buffalo, NY 14213
 - Website: <http://www.thebarkyard.org>
- Martin Luther King Park
 - Intersection of Best Street and Fillmore Avenue in downtown Buffalo
- Shopping on Elmwood Strip and Allentown strip
- Free movie nights on lawn at UB North and South campuses in summer
- Glenn Falls
 - Great place for hiking and picturesque ponds and landscaping
 - Location: Village of Williamsville
 - Website: <http://www.nyfalls.com/glenfalls>
- Old Home Day
 - Tuesday, July 12 – Saturday, July 16
 - Family fun at Williamsville fair.
 - Location: Main St. Williamsville, NY
 - Website: www.OLDHOMEDAYS.org

Outdoor Festivals

- Juneteenth Festival

- A Celebration of Buffalo's Black community with murals, vendors, ethnic foods and wares.
 - Phone: (716)891-8801
 - Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Project
 - Website: <http://www.juneteenthofbuffalo.com>
- The West Side Bazaar
 - Shopping center where entrepreneurs from around the world who are now living in the Buffalo area and local handcrafters can sell their merchandise
 - Phone: (716)464-6389
 - Location: 242 Grant Street (at Lafayette) Buffalo, NY 14213
 - Website: www.westsidebazaar.com
- Buffalo Winterfest Powderkeg Festival
 - Annual event in February. Lots of winter events taking place in Downtown Buffalo
 - Location: Downtown Buffalo
 - Website: <http://www.buffalowinterfest.com>
- Elmwood Festival of the Arts
 - Saturday August 25-August 26
 - Lots of dancing, theater, food, shopping and other cultural activities
 - Phone: (716)830-2484
 - Location: Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY
 - Website: <http://www.eafa.techriver.net>
- National Buffalo Wing Festival
 - Saturday September 1 – September 2
 - Chicken wing festival, get to taste the best chicken wings in Western New York and beyond.
 - Phone: (716)565-4141
 - Location: Coke-a-Cola Field, Downtown Buffalo
 - Website: <http://www.buffalowing.com>
- National Buffalo Garden Festival
 - Five-week-long garden party: June 22 – July 29
 - with 14 garden walks and tours, including America's largest garden walk tour. Events also include speakers, workshops and competitions.
 - Phone: 1(800)-BUFFALO
 - Location: Throughout Buffalo
 - Website: <http://www.nationalgardenfestival.com>
- Taste of Buffalo
 - Saturday July 7 – July 8
 - Opportunity to taste some of the best food Buffalo has to offer.
 - Location: Delaware Avenue and Niagara Square, Buffalo NY
 - Website: <http://www.tasteofbuffalo.com>
- Lewiston Art Festival
 - Saturday, August 11 – August 12
 - Festival includes musical concerts, art shows, and history
 - Phone: (716)754-0166

- Location: Lewiston, NY
 - Website: <http://www.artcouncil.org/events/artfestival>
- Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival
 - Friday August 24 – August 25
 - Free jazz festival with several prominent and up-and-coming Jazz artists
 - Location: Lewiston, NY
 - Website: <http://www.lewistoonjazz.com>
- Carly's Crossing
 - Sunday, August 12
 - A fundraising swimming challenge, with different competitive and experience levels. Proceeds to Carly's Club (Cancer Research)
 - Phone: Robin Hace – (716)845-4100
 - Location: Gallagher Beach – Buffalo Waterfront
 - Website: <http://www.giving.roswellpark.org/page.aspx?pid=382>
- Taste of Ellicottville
 - Saturday, August 11 – August 12
 - Food festival of 22 of the best restaurants in Ellicottville
 - Location: Ellicottville, NY
 - Website: <http://www.ellicottvillenyc.com/taste-of-ellicottville/>
- Eden Corn Fest
 - Thursday, August 4 – August 7
 - Similar to a county fair with food vendors, live music, rides, arts and craft shows, auto shows and more.
 - Location: Eden, NY
 - Website: <http://www.edencornfest.com>
- Kingdom Bound Christian Music Fest.
 - Sunday, August 5 – August 8
 - Four day Christian music festival
 - Phone: (716)633-1117
 - Location: Darien Lake Theme Park, Darien, NY
 - Website: <http://www.kingdombound.org>
- Buffalo Greek Festival
 - Friday, June 1 – June 3
 - Greek Cuisine, live Greek music, Greek folk dancing, cultural exhibits, and more.
 - Phone: (716)882-9485
 - Location: Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation (146 West Utica St. Buffalo, NY 14222)
 - Website: <http://www.buffalogreekfest.org>
- Polish Heritage Fest.
 - Friday June 8 – June 9
 - Celebrating Polish culture and traditions
 - Phone: (716)998-2501
 - Location: Hamburg Fairgrounds (5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, NY)

- Website: www.polunfest.com
- Buffalo River Fest
 - Friday, June 15 – June 17
 - Fun for whole family with live music, waterfront activities, and guided historic tours around waterfront.
 - Phone: (716)823-4707
 - Location: Buffalo River Fest Park (Ohio St, near First Niagara Arena)
 - Website: http://www.thevalleycenter.com/buffalo_riverfest
- Gus Macker Basketball Tournament
 - Saturday, June 2 – June 3
 - 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Great family event to watch some of the best basketball in Buffalo.
 - Location: Downtown Buffalo
 - Website: <http://www.macker.com>
- Friendship Festival
 - Friday, June 29 – Monday, July 2
 - Festival promotes the friendly relationship between America and Canada since the end of the War of 1812
 - Activities include concerts and family fun
 - Location: Mather Arch Park, Fort Erie, Canada
 - Website: <http://www.friendshipfestival.com>
- Sorrento Cheese Italian Food and Heritage Fest
 - Thursday, July 12 – Sunday, July 15
 - Second largest Italian “Street Festival” in the US, with lots of Buffalo’s best Italian restaurants.
 - Phone: (716)512-1878
 - Location: Hertel Avenue, Buffalo.
 - Website: <http://www.buffaloitalianfestival.com>
- Genesee County Fair
 - Monday, August 12 – Sunday, August 19
 - Website: <http://www.gcf.org>
- Erie County Fair
 - Wednesday, August 8 – Sunday, August 19
 - Phone: (716)649-3900
 - Location: Hamburg Fair Grounds, Hamburg, NY
 - Website: <http://www.ecfair.org>
- Canal Fest
 - Tuesday, July 17 – July 24
 - Phone: (716)692-3292
 - Location: North Tonawanda, NY
 - Website: www.canalfest.org

Museum

- Butterfly Conservatory
 - World’s largest glass enclosed butterfly conservatory.
 - Phone: (877)642-7275
 - Location: 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, ON. L2E 6T2

- Website: <http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/listings/index.cfm?action=display&listingID=5347&menuID=179&hit=1>
- Teddy Roosevelt Inaugural Site (has various educational activities for children starting at 4 +)
 - Site where Teddy Roosevelt was inducted as President of the United States. Site offers lectures, a public speaking contest, Annual picnic, and more.
 - Phone: (716)884-0095
 - Location: 641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14202
 - Website: www.nps.gov/thri/index.htm
- Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
 - Opens April 3. Has two historic carousels in operation. Museum has 20 hand crafted carousel animals that display different styles of carrousel animals. Has photo exhibit that shows the production process of creating a carrousel.
 - Phone: (716)693-1885
 - Location: 180 Thompson Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
 - Website: <http://www.carrouselmuseum.org>
- Aquarium of Niagara
 - Watch exciting activities such as Penguin feedings, Sea Lion training seassions, seal shows, and shark feedings
 - Phone: (716)285-3575
 - Location: 701 Whirlpool St. Niagara Falls, NY 14301
 - Website: <http://www.aquariumofniagara.org>
- Explore and More Children's Museum in E. Aurora
 - Western New York's only museum designed just for kids
 - Phone: (716)655-5131
 - Location: 300 Glead Ave. East Aurora, NY 14052
 - Website: www.exploreandmore.org
- Albright Knox Art Gallery
 - A collection of modern and contemporary art
 - Phone number: (716)882-8700
 - Location: 1285 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo NY 14222
 - Website: www.albrightknox.org
- Penny Art Gallery (Buffalo State College)
 - Only museum dedicated to the art artists of Western New York
 - Phone: (716)878-6011
 - Address: 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo NY
 - Website: www.burchfieldpenney.org
- Buffalo Museum of Science –
 - Their “Explorations” room is designed for little ones, so kids 0-5 have a blast in this place...There's a water table, a faux space shuttle cockpit, puppets, toys, costumes for the kids to dress up in, etc. (MH) (ZF)

- Phone: (716)896-5200
- Location: 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo NY 14211
- Website: <http://www.sciencebuff.org>

Recreation Centers:

- Kenan Center - Lockport
 - Activities at Kenan Center promote cultural, educational and recreational programs in community
 - Phone: (716)433-2617
 - Location: 433 Locust St. Lockport, NY 14094
 - Website: <http://www.kenancenter.org>
- Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo
 - The downtown location has an indoor playground that's free for members (although non-members can pay to gain access if they come as guests of members) (MH)
 - Phone
 - Amherst: (716)688-4033
 - Downtown: (716)866-3145
 - Location
 - Amherst 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville NY
 - Downtown: 787 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY
 - Website: <http://www.jccbuffalo.org>
- Town of Amherst's Youth and Recreation Board – The Family Room
 - With locations on Harlem Road in Amherst and the Northtown Automotive Center (formerly the Pepsi Center), young families can go during open house hours and make use of the amazing pre-school-like rooms they have. These rooms are full of toys, books, play-dough, easels and paint, etc.), as well as rooms for physical activity (big wheels, cushy mats to jump on and off of, soft balls to play with, etc.) Fees involved for any interested parties; slightly cheaper fees if you reside in the Town of Amherst, although non-Amherst residents can join for a slightly higher fee. There are also structured play groups for specific age ranges that meet on specific dates and times (for a higher fee.) This is NOT a babysitting facility: all children must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times. (MH)
 - Phone:
 - Northtown Center: (716)631-7298
 - Harlem Road: (716)631-7218
 - Location
 - Northtown Center: 1615 Amherst Manor Dr. Amherst, NY 14221
 - Harlem Rd: 4255 Harlem Rd. Amherst, NY 14226
- Boulevard Mall – Northtown Automotive Kids Play Area –
 - A free, carpeted play space with soft benches for parents and kids. On the carpeted area near the benches, little ones will find rubberized, soft things to climb and play on, like a “stone” bridge, cars, and a truck

(that doubles as a slide.) It's located in the food court right next to the carousel (another kid favorite, although carousel is not free.) (MH)

- Phone: (716)834-8600
- Location: 730 Alberta Dr. Amherst, NY 14226
- Website: <http://www.boulevard-mall.com>

Active

- Bounce Magic
 - Great place for kids of all ages to play on inflatable rides and play arcade games
 - Phone:
 - Orchard Park: (716)677-5867
 - Amherst: (716)834-5867
 - Location:
 - Orchard Park: 2881 southwestern Blvd. Orchard Park, NY 14127
 - Amherst: 1261 Niagara Falls Blvd. Amherst, NY 14226
 - Website: www.bouncemagic.com
- Adventure Landing (outdoor)
 - Mini Golf and arcade games
 - Phone: (716)832-3476
 - Location: 2400 Sheridan Dr. Tonawanda, NY 14150
 - Website: <http://www.adventurelanding.com>
- Chuck E. Cheese's (MH)
 - Phone:
 - Amherst: (716) 839-3543
 - Blasdell: (716)822-2221
 - Location
 - Amherst: 4994 Harlem Rd, Amherst NY
 - Blasdell: 4408 Milestrip Rd. #1
 - Website: <http://www.Chuckecheese.com>
- Dave and Buster's (MH) (ZF)
 - Dave and Busters has many arcade games and is perfect for children of any age
 - Phone: (716)932-2515
 - Location: 4545 Transit Rd. Williamsville, NY 14221
 - Website: <http://www.daveandbusters.com>
- Lasertron
 - Laser tag, arcade games and Go-Kart
 - Phone: (716)833-8766
 - Location: 5101 North Bailey Avenue, Amherst NY 14226
 - Website: <http://www.lasertron.us>

Theme Parks

- Martin's Fantasy Island
 - Theme Park
 - Phone: (716)773-7591
 - Location: Grand Island NY

- Website: www.martinsfantasyisland.com
- Darien Lake
 - Theme park
 - Phone: (585)599-4641
 - 993 Allegheny Rd. Darien Center, NY 14040
 - Website: www.godarienlake.com
- Attica/Arcade Polar Express Train Ride
 - First three weekends of December s
 - Santa is on train, kids get to drink hot chocolate while Santa reads the Polar Express and kids wear pajamas, sing Christmas Carols and drop letters to Santa at the North Pole
 - Phone: (585)492-3100
 - Location: 278 Main St. Arcade, NY 14009
 - Website: www.arcadeandatticarr.com

Crafts

- The Bead Gallery
 - Has lots of great bead options and will guide you through your project
 - Phone: (716)836-6775
 - Location: 2050 Eggert Road Amherst, NY 14226
 - Website: <http://www.beadgallery.com>
- Clay Hands Pottery
 - Work with ceramics, clay or glass
 - Phone: (716)759-1208
 - Location: 10086 Main St. Clarence, NY 14031
 - Website: www.clayhandspottery.com

Rochester

Outdoor

- Corbett's Glen
 - Has museums, bakeries/local restaurants, minor league sports and theater/entertainment district
 - Location: Rochester, NY
 - Website: www.nyfalls.com/corvettsghen
- Mendon Pond Park
 - Largest park in Monroe County, has over 2,500 acres of woodlands, ponds and wetlands.
 - Has several lodges and shelters
 - Location:
 - Park office: 95 Douglas Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472.
 - 10 miles southeast of Rochester
 - website: www.monroecounty.gov/parks-mendonponds
- Bill Wahl's Microcreamery
 - Take your ice cream from Bill Wahl's Microcreamery and go for walk around the Erie Canal.
 - Northfield Common, Adjacent to Schoen Place. Pitsford, NY
- Ice skate outside in Manhattan Sq. Park
 - Opened November 20 – March 17
 - Skate rentals available
 - Phone: (585)428-7541
 - Location: 353 Court St. Rochester, NY
 - Website: www.cityofrochester.gov/manhattansquare/

Outdoor Festival

- Lilac Festival
 - Friday, May 11 – Sunday, May 20
 - Lot's of great events and concerts, including the Michael Jackson Experience. Open daily from 10:30 am – 8:30 pm
 - Location: Rochester, NY
 - Website: <http://www.lilacfestival.com>

Museum

- Jell-o Gallery
 - April 1 – December 31
 - Museum displays the history of "Jell-O." New exhibit displays comedian Bill Cosby's influence on the company as a spokesperson.
 - LeRoy, NY (just outside of Rochester)
 - (585)768-7433
 - Website: <http://www.jellogallery.org>
- George Eastman House: Sweet Creations Gingerbread House Display
 - A Display of 70 gingerbread houses from professional bakers, families and community groups.
 - Phone: (585)271-3361
 - Location: 900 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

- Website: <http://www.eastmanhouse.org>
- Strong Museum of Play
 - Lots of interactive fun activities and exhibits for children
 - Phone: (585)263-2700
 - Location: One Manhattan Sq. Rochester, NY 14607
 - Phone: (585_263-2700
- Rochester Science and Museum Center (Probably better for kids age five and up)
 - “An Interactive museum/science center with 3 floors of hands-on, interactive, exhibits in science, technology, natural science and regional cultural heritage.” – website
 - Phone: (585)271-1880
 - Location: 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607
 - Website: <http://www.rmsc.org>

Shopping

- Greece Ridge Mall
- Marketplace Mall
 - Middle area at Starbucks has comfy chairs and couches in a sitting area

Syracuse

Outdoor

- New York State Fair
 - o Thursday, August 23 – Monday, September 3
 - o Phone: 1(800)475-3247
 - o Location: Syracuse, NY
 - o Website: www.nysfair.org
- Taberg Tower Tubing
 - o Snow tubing
 - o Phone: (315)339-5842
 - o Location: 7142 Julie Street, Taberg, NY 13471

Museum

- Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park
 - o Phone: (315)435-8511
 - o Location: 1 Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204
 - o Website: www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org
- Milton J Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology
 - o Exhibits range from topics such as the earth, human body and the environment. Includes an IMAX Theater
 - o Phone: (315)425-9068
 - o Location: 500 S. Franklin St. Syracuse, NY
 - o Website: www.most.org
- Erie Canal Museum
 - o Exhibits show historical value and instill an appreciation of the Erie Canal
 - o Phone: (315)471-0593
 - o Location: 318 Erie Boulevard, East Syracuse NY 13202
 - o Website: www.eriecanalmuseum.org

Theme Park

- Thunder Island
 - o Outdoor waterpark with other rides and games for kids of all ages
 - o Phone: (315)598-8016
 - o Location: 21 Wilcox Rd. Fulton, NY 13069
 - o Website: www.thunder-island.com

Indoor Recreation Center

- Kidz Club
 - o Indoor kids play and party center
 - o Phone: (315)695-2211
 - o Location: 219 County Route 57, Phoenix NY 13135
 - o Website: www.kidzclubfun.com

Active

- The Fun Junction
 - o Laser tag, mini bowling and arcade games
 - o Two locations:
 - Shoppingtown Mall

- Phone (315)446-1600
 - Location: 3649 Erie Blvd. East DeWitt, NY 13214
- Cicero
 - Phone: (315)458-9900
 - Location: 7785 Frontage Rd. Cicero, NY 13039
- Website: www.thefunjunction.com

Albany

Outdoor

- Cruise on the Hudson River
 - o Dutch Apple Cruises offers cruises along the Hudson River. Boat has fully enclosed section as well as a roofless patio.
 - o Phone: (518)463-0220
 - o Website: <http://www.dutchapplecruises.com>
- Walk along the Corning Preserve
 - o Albany, NY

Museum

- Visit the Empire State Mall to see the Museum and to look at the view from the Tower Building – the highest building in Albany
 - o Museum of New York State history and heritage
 - o Phone: (518)474-2418
 - o Location: 222 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12230
- Visit the Albany Institute to see Hudson River School paintings and an Egyptian mummy.
 - o Revel in the history and significance of the Albany/Upper Hudson Region.
 - o Phone: (518)463-4478
 - o Location: 125 Washington Ave. Albany, NY 12210
 - o Website: www.albanyinstitute.org

Saratoga – Less than one hour from Albany

Museum

- National Museum of Dance
 - o Only museum in the nation dedicated entirely to dance.
 - o Phone: (518)584-2225
 - o Location: 99 South Broadway Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
 - o Website: www.dancemuseum.org

Outdoor activities

- Congress Park
 - o Great place to picnic. Live music, art shows and outdoor festivals in the summer.
 - o Location: 315 Broadway Saratoga Springs, NY
 - o Website: www.saratoga.com/hotspot_congress-park
- Saratoga Race Track
 - o Take kids to see the horses, and let them join the winners circle with horses after the race.
 - o Phone: (518)584-6200
 - o Location: 267 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
 - o Website: www.nyra.com/index_saratoga

Western Massachusetts (Less than one hour from Albany)

Museums

Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield, MA)

- interactive displays of the history of basketball.

- Phone: (413)781-6500
- Location: 1000 West Columbus Avenue Springfield, MA 01105
- Website: www.hoophall.com

Shopping

- Lee Premium Outlets Mall
 - Phone: (413)243-8186
 - Location: 17 Premium Outlets Boulevard Lee, MA 01238
 - Website: <http://www.premiumoutlets.com>

New York City

Outdoor

- Brooklyn Botanic Garden
 - Phone: (718)623-7200
 - Location: 1000 Washington Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11225
 - Website: <http://www.ny.com/museums/brooklyn.botanical.html>
- The New York Botanical Garden
 - Phone: (718)817-8700
 - Location: 200th St. and Kazimiroff Blvd. Bronx, NY 10458
 - Website: <http://www.ny.com/museums/new.york.botanical.garden.html>
- Central Park walk/play/picnic
- Prospect Park Zoo
 - Phone: (718)399-7399
 - Location: 450 Flatbush Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11225
 - Website: www.prospectparkzoo.com
- Queens Wildlife Center
 - Opened 365 days per year
 - Phone: (718)271-1500
 - Location: 53-51 111th St. Queens, NY

Museum

- Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History
 - A planetarium with the largest and most powerful virtual reality simulator in world.
 - Phone: (212)769-5100
 - Location: 81st St. (just off Central Park West)
 - Website: www.amnh.org/rose
- Children's Museum of Manhattan
 - Interactive exhibits that teach children about the arts, cultural diversity, media/communications and more.
 - Phone: (212)721-1234
 - Location: 212 West 83rd St. New York, NY 10024
- Brooklyn Children's Museum
 - The first museum created specifically for kids in 1899. Filled with educational and fun exhibits and activities.
 - Phone: (718)735-4400
 - Location: 145 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213
 - Website: www.brooklynkids.org
- NY Aquarium
 - Phone: (718)265-3474
 - Location: Surf Avenue and West 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11224
 - Website: www.nyaquarium.com
- SONY Wonder Technology Lab
 - Free technology and entertainment and museum. Interactive exhibits inspire creativity and learning.

- Phone: (212)833-8100
- Location: Sony Plaza at 56th St and Madison Avenue, New York City

Stores:

- Dylan's Candy Bar
 - Giant candy and chocolate store
 - Phone: (646)735-0078
 - Location: 1011 Third Avenue at 60th St. New York, NY.
 - Website: <http://www.dylanscandybar.com>
- FAO Schwarz
 - One of biggest toy stores in world. Allows kids to play with some of the toys and dance on the "big piano" like Tom Hanks did in the movie "Big"
 - Phone: (800)426-8697
 - Location: 767 5th Ave. and 58th St. New York, NY 10153
 - Website: www.fao.com
- Hershey's Time Square
 - Check out the factory to see how the chocolate is made and have your name displayed on the Hershey message board right outside Times Square.
 - Phone: (212)581-9100
 - Location: 48th and Broadway New York, NY
 - Website: <http://www.thehersheycompany.com/about-hershey/visit-hershey/retail-stores/times-square.aspx>

Theme Parks

- Coney Island Boardwalk
 - Different games and rides for all ages
 - Phone: (718)372-0275
 - Location: 1000 Surf Avenue, New York, NY 11224
 -

Ohio

Cincinnati

Outdoor

- Eden Park
 - o Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and the Krohn Conservatory all housed in Eden Park. Also features two lakes and walking paths
- Website: <http://www.cincyparks.com/parks-events/central-region/eden-park/>
- Cincinnati Zoo
 - o Phone: (513)281-4700
 - o Location: 3400 Vine St. Cincinnati, OH 45220
 - o Website: <http://www.cincinnati-zoo.org>

Museum

- Newport Aquarium
 - o Phone: (859)261-7444
 - o Location: One Aquarium Way, Newport KY 41071
 - o Website: www.newportaquarium.com
- Cincinnati Children's Museum
 - o Great science and history exhibits and a I-Max Theater.
 - o Phone: (513)287-7000
 - o Location: 1301 Western Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45203
 - o Website: <http://www.cincymuseum.org>

Theme Park

- Kings Island
 - o Amusement park with water park
 - o Phone: (513)754-5700
 - o Location: 6300 Kings Island Dr. Mason, OH 45040
 - o Website: www.visitkingsisland.com

Columbus

Outdoors

- Columbus Zoo
 - Phone: Toll-Free 1(800)MONKEYS (666-397)
 - Location: 4850 West Powell Rd. Powell, Ohio 43065
 - Website: www.colszoo.org
- Glacier Ridge
 - Many great flowers and 11 miles of walking trails, along with a boardwalk over the wetlands.
 - Phone (614)891-0700
 - Location: 9801 Hyland Croy Road Plain City, OH 43064
 - Website: <http://www.metroparks.net/ParksGlacierRidge.aspx>
- Lockington Locks
 - This area formerly connected the Miami and Erie Canals. Interesting way for children to learn about former ways of travel (boats)
 - Phone: (800)686-1535
 - Location: North Hardin Road Lockington, OH 45356
 - Website: <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/nw12/>

Indoor Activities:

Museums

- Cooper's Mill
 - Learn how butter, jellies and jams are made
 - Phone: (419)562-4215
 - Location: 1414 North Sandusky Ave. Bucyrus, OH 44280
 - Website: <http://www.coopersmill.net/>
- Ohio Historical Society
 - Learn about the history of the state of Ohio
 - Phone: (614)297-2300
 - Location: 1982 Velma Ave. Columbus, OH 43211
 - Website: <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/index.shtml>
- The Santa Maria
 - View a replica of the Santa Maria, one of Christopher Columbus' ships that he used when discovering North America
 - Phone: (614)645-0351
 - Location: 25 Marconi Boulevard Columbus, OH 43215
 - Website: <http://www.santamaria.org/index.php>
- Columbus Museum of Art
 - Location: 480 East Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215
 - Phone: (614)221-6801
 - Website: <http://www.columbusmuseum.org/>
 -

Cleveland:

Outdoor

- Beaches for swimming on Lake Erie – Huntington, Edgewater, Mentor Headlands
- Parade the Circle at University Circle –
 - o June 9 11 am – 4 pm
 - o A parade in which all costumes, floats, etc. are made by hand. Music. Activities for children before and after parade
 - o Location: 10820 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44106
 - o Website: <http://www.universitycircle.org/events/2012/06/23rd-parade-the-circle-and-circle-village>
- Cleveland Zoo (BD) (Outdoor)
 - o Phone: (216)661-6500
 - o Location: 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland OH. 44109
 - o Website: www.clemetzoo.com
- Cleveland Orchestra 4th of July concert at Public Square (Free) (Outdoor)

Museum

- Children's Museum
 - o Phone: (216)791-7114
 - o Location: 10730 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland OH 44106
 - o Website: <http://www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org>
- Cleveland Aquarium
 - o Recently held grand opening
 - o Phone: (216)862-8803
 - o Location: Greater Cleveland Aquarium: 2000 Sycamore St. Cleveland, OH 44113
 - o Website: <http://www.greaterclevelandaquarium.com>
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
 - o Exhibits for children of all ages as well as live animal shows, planetarium programs, and outdoor gardens/wildlife habitats
 - o Phone: (216)231-4600
 - o Location: 1 Wade Oval Drive University Circle, Cleveland OH 44106
- Cleveland Art Museum
 - o Houses over 3000 pieces of art from over 5,000 years. Free to attend
 - o Phone: (216)421-7340
 - o Location: 11150 East Boulevard Cleveland, OH 44130
 - o Website: <http://www.clevelandart.org>
- Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
 - o Interactive exhibits celebrating the history of rock and roll music
 - o Phone: 216-781-7625
 - o Location: 1100 Rock and Roll Boulevard Cleveland, Ohio 44114
 - o Website: www.rockhall.com

Theme Park

Memphis Kiddie Park

- o 11 rides for children as well as an arcade and mini golf.

- Phone: (216)941-5995
- Location: 10340 Memphis Ave. Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
- Website: www.memphiskiddiepark.com

Florida:

Fort Lauderdale

Outdoor activities

- Billie Swamp Safari
 - Offers nature tours as well as “airboat adventure” tours
 - Phone: (863)983-6101
 - Location: Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation in the Florida Everglades Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, FL 33440.
 - Website: <http://www.billieswampsafari.travel/>
- Flamingo Gardens, Wray Botanical Collection
 - 60 acre botanical garden and wildlife sanctuary
 - Phone: (954)473-2955
 - Location: 3750 Flamingo Rd. Davie, FL 33330
 - Website: <http://www.flamingogardens.org/>
- Fort Lauderdale Duck Tours
 - Tour takes place on both land and sea and travels around the historical and modern sights of Fort Lauderdale. Great for children with entertaining tour guides.
 - Phone: (954)761-4002
 - Location: 17 S. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
 - Website: <http://www.fortlauderdaleducktours.com/>
 -

Indoor activities

- Boomers
 - Arcade games, Go-Kart racing, rock wall, mini-golf, batting cages, bumper boats, wave rider and more
 - Phone: (954)921-1411
 - Location: 1700 NW 1st. St. Dania Beach, FL 33004
 - Website: <http://www.boomersparks.com/>
- Funderdome
 - Fun and active activities for kids of all ages to participate in.
 - Phone: (954)525-1816
 - Location: 1455 SE 17th Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
 - Website: <http://www.funderdome.net/>

Museum

- Buehler Planetarium
 - Phone: (954)201-6681
 - Location: Broward Community College, Central Campus – 3501 SW Davie Rd. Davie, FL 33314
 - Website: <http://www.iloveplanets.com/>
- Butterfly World

- Thousands of live exotic butterflies on acres of land filled with waterfalls, orchids, roses, tropical gardens and beautiful birds.
- Phone: (954)977-4400
- Location: 3600 W. Sample Rd. Coconut Creek, FL 33073
- Website: <http://www.butterflyworld.com/>
- Museum of Discovery and Science
 - Hands-on interactive exhibits with five-story Imax 3D Theater
 - Phone: (954)467-6637
 - Location: 401 SW 2nd St. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
 - Website: <http://www.mods.org/>

General

If you live outside of the areas listed above, here are some general ideas for open adoption visits that may work for you.

- Local library children's class
- Sporting events
- Apple or berry picking
- Ice skating/roller skating indoor
- The mall
- Movies
- Indoor play-yards or play centers
- Indoor pool
- Pumpkin pickling
- Out for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert at a coffee shop or diner
- Park
- Zoo
- Sports game
- Playground
- Arcade
- Local theaters