

# The University of Chicago



2024

## Parent Resource Guide

Created by the University of Chicago Family Resource Center

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

*This list is not pre-screened, and information is often provided by organizations.*

**Childcare/School Referral Services**

**Early Childhood Daycare Centers**

**Public Schools (PreK-12)**

**Private Schools (PreK-12)**

**Non-neighborhood Schools and Childcare Centers**

**Sports and Recreation (includes after school care)**

**Cultural Activities (includes after school care)**

**Museums**

**For Expectant Parents**

**Parent Groups and Resources**

**Transportation**

**Health Care**

**Mental Health & Wellness**

**Housing**

## **CHILD CARE/SCHOOL REFERRAL SERVICES**

**Action for Children.** 312-823-1100. Action for Children provides a childcare resource and referral service that offers unique support for working parents. A database helps parents explore childcare options for children from 6 weeks to 12 years old. Action for Children also provides information about childcare assistance programs and tax credits. (Students typically do not qualify for assistance programs but can take tax credits.)

**Alternative Schools Network** Provides a directory of preschool through high school schools and educational programs.

**Care.com** This national site claims 4 million users, with options sortable by zip code. It can be used by both those seeking and providing care—for kids, but also for pets and seniors. Background checks available.

**Childcarecenter.us** currently provides a total of 119,348 licensed childcare centers and 157,105 home daycare providers. Find providers in your zip code or use the map below to browse by state, county, city, etc.

**GreatSchools.org** Find parent reviews, test scores and other data on schools you might be considering for your school-aged child.

**Hyde Park Neighborhood Club** 5480 S. Kenwood. 773-320-3620 or email [sdivan@hpnc.org](mailto:sdivan@hpnc.org). Attend one of their frequent in-person or Zoom info sessions or schedule a one-on-one consultation. Early Childhood Specialist Dr. Sarah Diwan can provide your family with individualized referrals for daycare centers, home daycares, nannies, and nanny shares, as well as professional development and mentorship to caregivers. HPNC's Childcare Information and Referral Program is funded by a grant from the Childcare Initiative of UChicago and UChicago Medical Center.

**Illinois Cares for Kids.** Gives a comprehensive listing of area childcare and early education options, along with ratings.

**UChicago K-12 Initiatives** The UChicago's Provost Office sponsors this initiative, including publishing the "K-12 Initiatives Educational Resource Guide" with a breakdown on area options. The guide includes both private and public schools--though it doesn't include Pre-K  
[12initiatives@uchicago.edu](mailto:12initiatives@uchicago.edu) for further information.

**Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools.** Many of the Chicago area independent schools are a part of this organization.

**Sittercity.com** is America's largest, most easily accessible database for babysitters and nannies. The website offers 100,000 caregivers for 20 major markets—including Chicago, of course. If desired, this site can also provide background checks, paycheck processing and contracting guidance.

**Sunshine Illinois Accountability Project** Government site contains licensing compliance information on current State licensed Day Care Providers, and school report cards, organized by zip code.

***UChicago Human Resources*** provides referrals through the company *Perspectives* for all "university employee families." [provost.uchicago.edu/perspectives](http://provost.uchicago.edu/perspectives)

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD DAYCARE CENTERS**

*(For children 4 and under. See Private and Public Schools sections for pre-k programs, which sometimes include 3-year-olds, and Non-Neighborhood Schools further away)*

**Busy Bumble Bee Academy** 6450 S. Cottage Grove. 773-643-9346. Provides care for infants and toddlers, and also after-school programs for school-aged kids between the ages of 6 weeks – 12 years. [Busybumblebeeceo@gmail.com](mailto:Busybumblebeeceo@gmail.com)

**Centers for New Horizons**. 4301 S. Cottage Grove. 773-373-5700. Effie Ellic ELC. This child-care center in Bronzeville offers early education for children between the ages of 2 weeks and 5 years. The language and math-rich curriculum focuses on helping children explore their cultural legacy, build self-confidence, and develop social skills. Centers for New Horizons participates in the UChicago Child Care Initiative and is NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) certified. Email [info@cnh.org](mailto:info@cnh.org)

**A Child's Place Academy** 1508 E 63rd Street. 773-690-5553. Woodlawn early childcare center for babies as young as 6 weeks; they also offer before and after school care for kids aged 6-12 right next door at their “A Big Kid’s Place”

**Cuddle Care** 4800 S. Lake Park Avenue. 773-285-1114. This Head Start childcare program serves children between the ages of 0-5 years. Half and full-day programs are available. Childcare includes monthly field trips, computers, a Cordon Bleu chef, structured curriculum, and foreign language instruction. Call for a morning tour.

**Family Focus**. 5467 S. University Avenue. 773-643-0452. Childcare for children 6 weeks to 5 y/o. Family Focus offers Head Start programs as a partner of Start Early and the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services. For enrollment information for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years old contact Elisa Simmons at Ext. 2419, or [elisa.simmons@family-focus.org](mailto:elisa.simmons@family-focus.org). and ages 3 to 5 contact Gladys Gaeta at Ext. 2478, or [gladys.gaeta@family-focus.org](mailto:gladys.gaeta@family-focus.org)

**Kemit Academy**. 5100 S. Dorchester Ave. 773-996-5039. Daycare for 6 weeks - 5 y/o. Kemit strives to provide a safe and developmentally appropriate early childhood education and therapeutic environment for infants through school-age children. Kemit has visiting early intervention specialists who can perform assessments for possible extra support.

**Little Inspirations**. 2 locations: *Central* (5480 S Kenwood Ave, Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 773-817-1274; and *East* (5548 S Hyde Park Blvd.) 773-891- 0029. Care for children 6 weeks-5 years; they describe their philosophy as “purposeful, intentional play.”

**Little People Learning Center, Inc.** 1448 E. 53RD Street 773-955-9942. Childcare for children 6 weeks - 5 years old. This pre-school has been in Hyde Park for 20+ years. It’s one of the most affordable options in HP. Full and part-time options and sibling discounts.

**Parent Cooperative for Early Learning**. 5300 S. Shore Drive. 773-684- 6363. This is a private not-for-profit cooperative preschool for children ages 15 months through 5 years. NAEYC accredited school includes enrichment activities such as music, Spanish, swimming, tennis, and field trips. They offer part time options, UChicago and sibling discounts. As a cooperative, parents are required to participate in the life of the school. A list of options to fit various lifestyles is provided. [info@parentcoop.org](mailto:info@parentcoop.org)

**Positive Kids, Positive Futures.** 7301 S. Greenwood Ave. 773/255-9076. Woodlawn facility provides care for babies as little as 6 weeks and before/after-school care for ages 5-12. In addition to a Spanish enrichment program, they help find applicable childcare subsidies.

**Teeny Tiny University.** 6111 S. Cottage Grove. 773-952-7311. Just come to the neighborhood in 2019, this minority and woman-owned early learning center uses “The Creative Curriculum” by Diane Dodge; serves children from 6 weeks to 5 yrs.

**Tiny Scholars Academy** 1167 E. 63rd St. Childcare for children 6 weeks-5 years of age. TSA says their “goal is to offer every child a jumpstart to success by concentrating on early literacy, science, math . . . and building close and secure relationships.” Enrichment activities include Yoga, Music, Dance, and Spanish. Contact [info@tinyscholarsacademy.org](mailto:info@tinyscholarsacademy.org)

**University of Chicago Child Development Center, Drexel.** 5610 S. Drexel Ave. 773-256-0000. This center is run by Bright Horizons, and serves children 6 weeks-5 years. It is conveniently located for university and hospital employees. UChicago discount.

**University of Chicago Child Development Center, Stony Island.** 5824 S. Stony Island Blvd. 773-947-2570. Also run by Bright Horizons, the beautiful green-roof building is right next to the Laboratory School Elementary location. UChicago discount available.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PreK-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

***Children are initially registered in their neighborhood school, based on home address. However, it is also possible to apply for admission to other schools. Some slots are offered based on applications and student test scores, and others are on a lottery system. The general website for the entire district is [CPS.edu](http://CPS.edu) Here are some pages of particular interest:***

**Chicago Public Schools (C.P.S.)** Search the on-line directory to find a school of interest. The directory shows neighborhood school boundaries, with links to school “report cards” giving student demographics, test scores, and parent survey results. Some limited charter school information is also available.

**Chicago Public Schools Preschool Programs.** **Early Learning Hotline: 312/229-1690.** Information about free- and fee-based preschool and kindergarten options throughout the public school system.

**CPS Office of Academic Enhancement** 773-553-2060, [gocps@cps.edu](mailto:gocps@cps.edu) This location on the general CPS site explains admission process for CPS magnet, charter, gifted or selective enrollment schools. You also use their online application for any school other than your neighborhood school.

**UChicago K-12 Initiatives** Publishes a guide to area elementary education, which includes a good section on navigating CPS, with a list of the nearby neighborhood schools.

## **PRIVATE SCHOOLS NEARBY, PreK-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**[Akiba Schechter Jewish Day School](#)**. 5235 South Cornell. 773-493-8880. This popular private school educates children from pre-k through eighth grade. Pre-school and kindergarten are play-based, and open to children of any faith. Some financial aid available. PreK starts at 2 years old and has part time, full time, and extended day options.

**[The Ancona School](#)**. 4770 S. Dorchester Ave. 773-924-2356. Ancona is an independent Montessori school that serves children from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They have been part of the community for 25+ years and offer small class sizes and have accreditations by many independent and Montessori school associations. Some financial aid is available. Half and full day options for 3–4-year-olds, with before/after school care available.

**[Chicago Free School](#)**. 110 E. Hyde Park Blvd (inside KAM Synagogue), 312-392- 0204. The Free School is a democratic community of learners where students make choices to author their own educations. The philosophy is learning should be hands-on, exploratory, and connected to the wider world. For ages 3 through 8th grade with sliding-scale tuition.

**[City Elementary](#)**, 1100 E. Hyde Park Blvd., 872-240-2489. This relatively new not-for-profit school boasts very small class sizes for children K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. “In keeping with the founding parents’ original vision, (City Elementary is) committed to meeting neurodiverse learners where they are, providing a life-changing education.”

**[Hyde Park Day School](#)**. 6254 S. Ellis Ave. 773-420-2550. Since 2000, the full day school program has offered a specialized, educational curriculum for students, ages 6-15, with moderate to severe learning disabilities and who have average to above average intelligence.

**[St.Thomas the Apostle School](#)**. 5467 S. Woodlawn Avenue. 773-677-1142. Tracing their history back 100 years, St. Thomas the Apostle is a neighborhood parochial school that serves children from pre-K through 8th grade, and before/after school programs are offered. Some need-based scholarships are available, and there is a sibling discount.

**[University of Chicago Laboratory Schools](#)**. 1362 E. 59<sup>th</sup> Street. (Historic Campus for older grades) and 5800 South Stony Island Ave. (Newer campus for elementary school.) 773-702-9450. The renowned Laboratory Schools offer a rigorous academic program that focuses on character development and the development of critical thinking skills. The Laboratory School serves children from nursery through 12th grade. Discounts are available for some university staff/faculty; additionally, you may apply for income-based financial assistance on a sliding scale. Lab School also offers the very popular “Summer Lab” day camp program.

## **NON-NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS AND DAYCARE CENTERS**

*(outside of Hyde Park & surrounding neighborhoods)*

***Ada S. McKinley Trumbull Park Childcare Center***, 10534 S. Oglesby Ave. Provides childcare for children aged birth to 5.

**[Bridgeport Child Development](#)** 3053 S. Normal. 312-842-5566. Care for children ages 2-12 years; fees are based on a sliding scale. NAEYC (National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children) accredited.



**[Cambridge Classical Academy](#)**. 4650 S. Dearborn. 773-891-5030. Cambridge Classical Academy is an independent Christian school that serves pre-k through grade 8. The school maintains a small student-to-teacher ratio to underpin their commitment to individualized instruction and consider family engagement a cornerstone of their success.

**[Council Oak School Montessori](#)**. 11030 South Longwood Drive. 773-779- 7606. 2521 Grove Street, Blue Island, IL 708-926-9720. Council Oak is an independent Montessori school that serves children from preschool through eighth grade. Younger children (3-6) are in 1 large class called “the children’s house.” [Info@counciloakmontessori.org](mailto:Info@counciloakmontessori.org)

**[A Child’s Space](#)**. 1020 S. Wabash. 312-431-1234. This private South Loop nursery offers care for children between the ages of 6 weeks through 6 years with a focus on discovery-based learning. Costs start at \$1,500/month. Part and full-time care available.

**[Chicago Jewish Day School](#)**. 3730 N. California. 773-271-2700. CJDS is a multi-denominational Jewish day school located on the north side of the city for Jr-K to 8th grade.

**[City Garden Waldorf School](#)**. 920 West 19th Street. (312)421-3050. [citygarden1@gmail.com](mailto:citygarden1@gmail.com) This school is in the east Pilsen neighborhood. They offer mixed-age preschool and kindergarten classrooms including children 3-6. Half, full and extended day options are available. Children can attend, 2,3, or 5 days/week. City Garden also offers Parent-Child classes for ages 0-3.

**[Educare of Chicago](#)**. 5044 S Wabash Ave. 773-924-2334. Run by *An Ounce of Prevention fund*, offers childcare and early education programs for children aged birth – 5 years. Families must meet Head Start income levels to qualify.

**[Firman Community Services Early Childhood Learning Center, West](#)**. 37 West 47<sup>th</sup> St. 773-373-3400 for eligibility unit. Provides childcare for children 2-5 years, with an emphasis on school readiness. Subsidies available for some families. [info@firmancs.org](mailto:info@firmancs.org)

**[Francis W. Parker](#)**. 330 West Webster Avenue. 773-353-3000. Parker offers a “compelling educational experience, encompassing the intellectual, emotional, social, physical and moral development of the individual student in the context of community life” to grades JrK-12<sup>t</sup>.

**[Henry Booth Bernard Center/Near South Head Start](#)**. 2929 S. Wabash Ave. 312-791-0424. Provides pre-school and school readiness for children 3-5 years old.

**[Ivy Garden ELC](#)**. 625 W 31<sup>st</sup> Street. 312-225-0154. Early Childhood care, multiple locations.

**[KinderCare Learning Center, South Loop](#)**. 1501 S. State Street. 312-913- 1557. This childcare program serves children ages 6 weeks to 5 years and is NAEYC accredited.

**[Living the Language](#)**. Locations at 2111 S. Michigan Ave, 243 E. 31st St. and 1255b S. State St. 312-285-2074 Spanish and French full immersion daycare and preschool.

**[Morgan Park Academy](#)**. 2153 West 111th Street. 773-881-6700. Morgan Park Academy “encourages its students to lead lives of purpose, to learn to work hard, to strive for excellence, and to appreciate the diversity that exists in this world.” Morgan Park Academy serves children grades preK-12.

**Near North Montessori School.** 1434 West Division Street. 773-384-1434. Near North Montessori is an independent Montessori school that serves children from pre-school through eighth grade. Additional programs include before/after school and a summer camp.

**Old St Mary's School.** 1474 South Michigan Avenue. 312-386-1560. Old St. Mary's is a parochial school for pre-k through 1st grade.

**St Philip Neri School.** 2110 East 72nd Street. 773-288-1138 St. Philip Neri is a parochial school for grades PreK-eight.

## **SPORTS AND RECREATION**

*(Listings with an\* also offer after-school, vacation day or summer programs)*

**AYSO Soccer, Region 751.** Soccer league with practices and games in Hyde Park for children ages 4+.

**LA Fitness** 5224 S. Lake Park. 773-358-4228. Memberships include access to classes, pool and tennis courts, and allow you to visit other LA Fitness sites around the city. For a fee, childcare is available while you work out.

\***Chicago Park District.** Chicago has one of the largest Public Parks systems in the country. They offer a huge array of summer camps and low-cost classes in a variety of areas, as well as many free family events. Check their website for park locations and information about classes and special programs. Seasonal offerings include a pool with a water slide at the Washington Park location, and a skating rink on the Midway.

**Enso Yoga and Martial Arts Studio.** 412 S. Wells. 312-427-3676. Yoga and martial arts instruction for children as young as 4. Or you can try their family class and learn together!

**Hello Baby.** 600 E. 61<sup>st</sup> Street. 773-280-5613. Free Woodlawn community play space for little ones 3 and under also offers a different fun class or activity each day of the week.

**Hyde Park School of Dance.** 5650 S. Woodlawn Avenue (Unitarian Church.) 773-493-8498. Creative movement classes for 3-year-olds, pre ballet classes for 4 to 6-year-olds and ballet instruction for ages 7 and up. Non ballet classes are also available—and there are classes for grown-ups, too.

\***Apachi Hyde Park JCC Day Camp.** 6410 S. Dante Ave. 312-775-1815. Summer camp operated by HP Jewish Community Center (JCC). They offer daily on-site swimming, huge fenced-in fields, air-conditioned spaces, field trips, Artists in Residence, art, dance, music, and community. Children ages 4 years through 7th grade, plus Counselors in Training (8th–10th grade), can attend for three, four, or seven weeks. There's a sibling discount, fee assistance, round-trip bus service, and a referral credit. Email Camp Director [Elisa Aranoff](mailto:Elisa.Aranoff) or call for more info.

**Hyde Park/Kenwood Legends Baseball.** This league offers T-Ball, Pee Wee and Little League for boys and girls. [info@hplegends.org](mailto:info@hplegends.org)

\***Hyde Park Neighborhood Club.** 5480 S. Kenwood. 773-643-4062. Provides recreational and extra-curricular programs for toddlers through teens, including a tot-lot, before and after school care, summer camps, music and dance lessons, and sports instruction. They are also the home to many partner organizations for youngsters. For HPNC hosted



events, costs recently changed to a pay-what-you-can model, with a chart for suggested donation. Children's daily classes & activities are included with Tot Lot entry.

\***[Ivy Garden After School Center](#)**. 625 W 31<sup>st</sup> Street. 312-225-0154. Summer and after-school programs for kids ages 6-14. They can provide transportation from your child's school.

**[Kenwood School of Ballet](#)** 1100 E. Hyde Park Blvd (inside KAM Synagogue) 773/368-4058. Email [admin@kenwoodballet.com](mailto:admin@kenwoodballet.com). They may be called a ballet school, but they also have classes in musical theater dance, hip hop, modern dance and aerobatics. Students as young as 2 and through high school.

**[Kumon](#)**. 1525 E. 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 202. 773-955-7010 Kumon offers after school reading and math programs to help children master fundamental skills. Call or email [eahme1@ikumon.com](mailto:eahme1@ikumon.com).

**[Lil' Kickers](#)**. Lil' Kickers is a year-round, non-competitive introductory soccer and movement skills program for boys and girls ages 18 months to 9 years old. Try out a class free.

**[Maggie Daley Park](#)** 337 East Randolph Street. Right next to Millennium Park, the new Maggie Daley Park needs a listing of its own. The park features many play structures (divided by recommended age) a skating ribbon, climbing wall and miniature golf, along with family programming all year. Park is free—some activities have low-cost rental equipment.

\***[METROsquash](#)** 6100 S. Cottage Grove Ave., 773/241-5150. METROsquash uses the sport of squash as a hook to engage 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students using the combination of squash and academic instruction along with mentoring, cultural enrichment, and community service to help students put their best foot forward. They meet at least three days a week after school with one-on-one mentoring and weekend activities. The program is free.

**[Millennium Park](#)**. 201 E. Randolph St. 312-742-2963. Along with public art exhibits and extensive gardens, Millennium Park offers free concerts and family programs, especially in the summer months. In warm months, playing in the Crown fountain is always a kid-pleaser.

**[606 Karate](#)**. 5307 S. Hyde Park Blvd, 773-490-4882 Offering instruction in the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do, Filipino sword, and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. For kids 5 & up, adults, and families. You can try it out with a free intro class. [info@606karate.com](mailto:info@606karate.com)

\***[South Side YMCA](#)**. 6330 Stony Island Avenue. 773-947-0700. This YMCA's many programs include early childcare, a summer day camp, "Schools Day Out" care, youth swim lessons, various performance and STEAM classes and sports programs for kids. The YMCA has multiple indoor pools with designated family swim time. They offer a membership discount for university families, and babysitting while parents work out.

\***[Summer Lab](#)**. Multiple day-camp sessions for Prek-8<sup>th</sup> grade offered by UChicago Lab School. Very popular among university families, and spots fill up fast.

**[University of Chicago Swim School](#)**. Ratners Athletic Center, 5530 S. Ellis. 773-702-1234. Swimming instruction offered by the University of Chicago Swim Team coaches and members of the Men's and Women's Varsity Swimming Teams. Fitness Center Membership is not required for the Swim School. Email [ucswimschool@uchicago.edu](mailto:ucswimschool@uchicago.edu) to get notified when classes open—they fill almost immediately.

## **CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*(Listings with an\* also offer after school, vacation day or summer programs)*

**Bessie Coleman Branch Library.** 731 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. 312-747-7760 This smaller branch has several family activities: story times for little ones, and “Crafternoons” and Chemistry Club for kids 6+.

**Beverly Arts Center.** 2407 W. 111th Street. 773-445-3838 Center has exhibits and classes in arts, computers, music, theatre and dance for kids 3+ with some scholarships available.

**The Blackstone Branch Library.** 4904 S. Lake Park Avenue. 312-747-0511. Open M-F with a dedicated children’s section and frequent family activities. Check their website often to find out about their many free story-time and event offerings—including Lego Night!

**Chicago Children’s Choir/Hyde Park Neighborhood Choir.** Meets at First Unitarian and University Churches. 312-849-8300 ext. 122. The choir includes children ages 8 to 16 years of age, practices 2x weekly and performs around the city and region.  
[hydepark@ccchoir.org](mailto:hydepark@ccchoir.org)

**Chicago Human Rhythm Project.** (CHRP) Various locations. Visit this site to see the many classes, festivals and ensembles who are part of the CHRP, including those at the Mayfair Academy. Classes for kids as young as 3.

\***ETA Creative Arts.** 7558 S. South Chicago Avenue. 773-752-3955. One of Chicago’s leading performing arts organizations in the black community, ETA plans 5 annual mainstage productions and hosts an 8-week summer arts camp for ages 7-13.

**Experimental Station.** 6100 S. Blackstone. 773-241-6044. The Experimental Station hosts occasional cultural events and houses Blackstone Bicycle Works and the vibrant 61<sup>st</sup> Street farmer’s market.

\***Hyde Park Art Center.** 5020 S. Cornell. 773-324-5520. In addition to housing rotating art exhibits, Hyde Park Art Center offers creative arts and media classes for preschool through adults. Classes include origami, clay, stenciling, drawing and photography, and they run summer day camps. HPAC also sponsors free family art days several times per year.

**Hyde Park School of Dance.** 5650 S. Woodlawn Avenue (Unitarian Church.) 773-493-8498. Creative movement classes for 3-year-olds, pre ballet classes for 4 to 6 year olds and ballet instruction for ages 7 and up. Non ballet classes (like Hip Hop) are also available.

**Hyde Park Suzuki Institute.** 773-643-1388. Musical instruction in several locations for children in the violin, viola, cello, piano and guitar beginning at age 3. Offers “Twinkle Stars” introductory music and movement classes for children 2-5 at Augustana Lutheran Church (5500 S. Woodlawn.) [hpsi@hydeparksuzuki.org](mailto:hpsi@hydeparksuzuki.org)

**Hyde Park Youth Symphony.** 915 E 60<sup>th</sup> St, #217 (Logan Center). 773-217- 8387. This 65-year-old community-based organization provides orchestral instruction for children on the south side of Chicago. They also offer “community beginner” classes for children who don’t have access to early music learning in their elementary schools. [office@thehpys.org](mailto:office@thehpys.org)

**[K.A.M. Isaiah Religious School](#)**. 110 E. Hyde Park Blvd. 773-924-1234 KAM offers a school program for Jewish children from k through 10th grade. [kamii@kamii.org](mailto:kamii@kamii.org)

**[The Kid's Table](#)**. Virtual. 773-235-COOK (773-235-2665). Offers online cooking classes for parents, kids and teens. You can join an interactive virtual class or scroll through one of their many pre-recorded past classes available to rent on their website (under “on demand”).

**[Kenwood School of Ballet](#)** 1100 E. Hyde Park Blvd (inside KAM Synagogue), 773/368-4058, They may be called a ballet school, but they also have classes in hip hop, aerobatics, musical theater and modern dance. For students as young as 18 months (“Tiny Twirlers”) and through high school. [admin@kenwoodballet.com](mailto:admin@kenwoodballet.com)

**[Little Black Pearl](#)**. 1060 E. 47<sup>th</sup> Street. 773-285-1211. The mission of Little Black Pearl is to create opportunities for youth and adults to deepen their creative involvement through the arts, cultivate entrepreneurial skills and use arts as a means for economic and community transformation. Primarily for teens, they sometimes offer classes for kids 7-12.

**[Logan Center](#)**. 915 E. 60<sup>th</sup> Street. 773-702-2787. The beautiful Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts is a hub for a wide variety of arts programming, by both UC and the wider community. There are many family-friendly performances and activities—many free.

**[M.A.D.D. Rhythms Inc.](#)** (*Making a Difference with Dance*) 773-604- 1899. MADD offers tap dancing classes for adults and children, including “tap for tots” at their new home in the Harold Washington Cultural Center in Bronzeville. You can pay for a single class or save by buying a punch card. [info@maddrhythms.com](mailto:info@maddrhythms.com)

**[Marsha's Music Together](#)**. 5480 S. Kenwood Ave. (Hyde Park Neighborhood Club) 773-288-3815. Founder Marsha Melsheimer has delighted Hyde Park kids for 20+ years. Marsha's Music Together provides music education for children (birth to elementary age) by “building on your child's natural enthusiasm for music.” Check their website for tuition prices and times or sign up to try a class for free. [marsha@marshasmusic.com](mailto:marsha@marshasmusic.com)

\***[Merit School of Music](#)**. 38 South Peoria Street. 312-786-9428. Offers a variety of music instruction to youth (early childhood high school) and strives to remove economic barriers that might otherwise prevent children from participating. 80% of students receive some sort of financial assistance. They run a summer camp and a conservatory for advanced students.

**[Music Teachers of Hyde Park](#)**. Provides a listing of many talented music teachers offering private music lessons, along with info about instructor and student recitals.

**[Old Town School of Folk Music](#)**. Locations at 4544 North Lincoln Avenue and 909 West Armitage. 773-728-6000. Offers a variety of classes for adults and children in music, dance and theatre. The “Wiggleworms” class is a particular favorite for very young children. Since the pandemic, they offer many classes online, as well.

**[Rockefeller Memorial Chapel](#)**, 5850 S. Woodlawn. 773-702-2100. In addition to Sunday services (including choral and organ music) the Chapel presents many free concerts and series featuring their choir, organ and carillon (bells.) For example: Tuesday 4 pm “Tea and Pipes” performances, and an annual Christmas Eve candlelight caroling service. Intrepid explorers can climb the tower to join the Carillon player for daily noon concerts.

**Russell Talbert Dance Studio.** Studio in the Mayfair Academy of Fine Arts, 8701 S Bennett St, 773-485-5868 The Center offers ballet instruction to students ages 5 through adult. [rtdancestudio@gmail.com](mailto:rtdancestudio@gmail.com)

**61<sup>st</sup> Street Farmer's Market.** 61<sup>st</sup> street, from Dorchester to Blackstone. Saturdays, May-October 9-2. This flourishing farmer's market features family activities, music, stories, and chef demonstrations. LINK cards are accepted, with purchases matched up to \$25. A smaller market operates indoors at Experimental Station in the winter and early spring.

**Southside Suzuki Cooperative.** Individual studio classes are located on the south side of Chicago, and each Suzuki-trained teacher has control over their own rates, schedules, and policies. The studios then come together with pooled resources to provide group classes, large scale concerts, masterclasses, and other community events. They are a partner organization of the Logan Center for the Arts and University Church, and many of their classes are held at those locations.

\***South Shore Cultural Center.** 7059 South Shore Drive. 773-256-0149. The beautiful South Shore Cultural Center is a Chicago Landmark, owned by the Parks District. They have classes for kids and adults, professional performances, exhibits, educational and cultural activities for the community. There's a beach, "kid's room", golf and tennis courts, a pool, and gardens on the grounds. They run popular after-school and summer camp programs.

## **MUSEUMS**

***Chicago's many museums are a great educational and recreational activity for families. However, admission can be expensive (free museums/days are noted as we know them.) If you will be using a museum frequently, you may want to purchase a membership as a cost-saving measure. Many museums also offer (sometimes unpublished) discounts for educators or students, and free or reduced-price days, (especially in Sept and Feb) so check their websites or ask. The Chicago Public Library has a program called "Museum Passports" that lets you borrow a free admission pass for 4 to a museum. These passes are very popular, so speak to the librarian about when you have the best chance of getting the museum of your choice. And If you have a LINK or WIC card, you qualify for deeply discounted "Museums for All" fares.***

**Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum** 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive. 312-922-7827.

**Art Institute of Chicago.** 111 S. Michigan Ave. 312-443-3600. The art institute has many activities for kids, and children's admission (up to age 17) is always free with a paying adult.

**Bronzeville Children's Museum.** 9301 S. Stony Island Blvd. 773-721-9301. The first and only African American children's museum in the country.

**Brookfield Zoo.** 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. And 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Brookfield, IL. 708-688-8000.

**Chicago Architecture Center.** 111 E. Wacker Ave. 312-922-3432. In Fall 2018, they opened their new, expanded Center on Wacker. In addition to the museum, they offer architectural tours by bus, boat and foot, and the occasional family workshop.

**[Chicago Children's Museum](#)**. 700E. Grand Ave. 312-527-1000. This large children's museum is in Navy Pier, which also houses a treasure trove of fun activities.

**[Chicago Cultural Center](#)**. 78 E. Washington St. 312-744-6630. Admission is free. Various art exhibits and free performances are held here, and the glorious, refurbished Library alone makes it worth a trip.

**[Chicago History Museum](#)**. 1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600. Admission is free for Illinois kids under 18.

**[City Gallery at the Historic Water Tower](#)** (*Gallery Currently closed*). 806 N. Michigan Ave. Free Museum and self-guided tour.

**[DuSable Museum of African American History](#)**. 740 E. 56th Place. 773- 947-0600. The only major independent institution in Chicago established to preserve and interpret the historical experiences and achievements of African Americans. Kids 5 and under are free, and it's free for everyone on Sundays.

**[Field Museum](#)**. 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive. 312-922-9410. The museum offers a variety of family programming. Free admission on Wednesdays for Illinois residents.

**[Frank Lloyd Wright Robie House](#)**. 5757 S. Woodlawn Avenue. 312-994-4000 Tickets can be bought for guided tours.

**[Garfield Park Conservatory](#)**. 300 N. Central Park Ave. 312-746-5100. Admission is free to these beautiful glass enclosed gardens. Occasional events and family programming.

**[Glessner and Clarke House Museum](#)**. 1800 S Prairie Ave. 312-326-1480 The city's oldest surviving building located in the beautiful Chicago's Women's Park and Gardens. Kids under 5 are not allowed on tours.

**[Hull House Museum](#)**. 800 S. Halsted Street. 312-413-5353. Teaches kids Chicago history, and how one person can make a difference. Admission is a suggested donation.

**[Illinois Holocaust Museum](#)**. 9603 Woods Dr. Skokie, IL. 847-967-4800.

**[Ancient Civilizations \(ISAC\) Museum](#)**. 1155 E. 58<sup>th</sup> Street. 773-702-9514. The recently re-named Oriental Institute focuses on art and artifacts from the Middle East, and in addition to the small museum offers occasional family events. A schedule can be found on the website. Admission is free/suggested donation.

**[Lincoln Park Zoo](#)**. 2001 N. Clark St. 312-742-2000. Admission is free, but there is a parking charge.

**[Museum of Science and Industry](#)**. 57th and Lake Shore Drive. 773-684- 1414. There are live science demos throughout the museum, and young children can happily spend many hours in the downstairs Idea Center.

**[Museum of Contemporary Art](#)**. 220 E. Chicago Ave. 312-280-2660. Kids 18 and under visit free; everyone is free on Tuesdays.



**[National Museum of Mexican Art.](#)** 1852 W. 19th Street. 312-738-1503. The National Museum of Mexican Art is the nation's largest Latino arts institute. Admission is free.

**[Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.](#)** 2430 N. Cannon Drive. 773-755-5100.

**[Pullman Foundation.](#)** 112 Street and Cottage Grove. 773-795-8901. Houses historical artifacts from tycoon George Pullman's home and model town.

**[Smart Museum of Art.](#)** 5550 S. Greenwood. 773-702-0200. The Smart Museum of Art is a small museum with frequently changing exhibits. They offer monthly family art days during the school year. Admission is free.

**[Shedd Aquarium.](#)** 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive. 312-939-2438. Tickets are expensive, but they have many free days for Chicago residents.

**[Spertus Museum.](#)** 618 S. Michigan Ave. 312-322-1700. Explores Jewish learning and culture.

**[Swedish American Museum and Children's Museum of Immigration.](#)** 5211 N. Clark Street. 773-728-8111.

## **RESOURCES FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS**

**[Birthways-Labor Support and Postpartum Doula Services.](#)** 3717 N. Ravenswood. 888-506-0607. This is Chicago's oldest and largest community of labor support and postpartum doulas. Services include childbirth education, breastfeeding support, parenting support and classes for expectant parents. Birthways has a new Parent Resource Center that offers classes on a variety of topics including infant sign language and cloth diapering.

**[Blue Lotus Yoga.](#)** Pre & Post-natal classes: see listing in "wellness" section.

**[Chicago Birthworks Collective](#)** is a (relatively) new maternal wellness company providing full-circle doula care. They also have a storefront on 55<sup>th</sup> & Cornell, where they offer classes and sell goods for baby and mom.

**[Northwestern Memorial Prentice Women's Hospital & Maternity Ctr.](#)** 250 E. Superior. 312-926-000.

**[Rush University Medical Center.](#)** 1650 W. Harrison. 312-942-2336. Resources at Rush include birth center tours, breastfeeding classes, cesarean birth classes, childbirth education, infant/child CPR classes, prenatal classes and therapeutic massage.

**[Swedish Covenant Hospitals.](#)** 5145 N. California Ave. 773-878-7787. Swedish Covenant offers a family birthing center, midwives, and childbirth classes.

**[University of Chicago Hospitals.](#)** 5841 S. Maryland. Tour the new Family Birth Center, which includes both md and midwife practice options and prenatal classes. "At the Center, we offer a customized birth experience in the comfort and privacy of our nurturing environment. Our team of experts supports pregnant women and their partners and families with compassion & respect through pregnancy, birth, bonding, breastfeeding & healing."



## **PARENT GROUPS AND RESOURCES**

**[ACLS Medical Training](#)** – ***Safety Resource***. Use this website as a resource for learning how to best protect your children and keep them safe. You can also take classes.

**[Chicago Kids.com](#)** Website with an exhaustive list of family activities going on in the city, along with some good discount deals. You can sign up for their newsletter or share an event.

***Child Safety Guide***. **[samndan.com/child-safety](http://samndan.com/child-safety)** A law office put together and shared this useful site, with “Tips to Keep Kids Safe at Home, School, Outdoors & Travel.”

**[Fussy Baby Network](#)**. Hotline: 888-431-2229. This network, run by the Erikson Institute, offers parents of fussy babies assistance and support through the hotline, clinics at UChicago Children’s Hospital, home visits and parent support groups.

**[Hello Baby](#)**. 600 E. 61<sup>st</sup> Street. 773-280-5613. In addition to their wonderful free playroom, they offer many support services, including providing some baby equipment and a monthly “ask-the-doctor” gathering with a pediatrician (online, too.)

**[Hyde Park Neighborhood Club](#)**. 5480 S. Kenwood. 773-643-4062. This organization is a neighborhood hub—for play and connecting with resources. See listings in “referral” and “recreation.”

**[Kids In Danger](#)**. This local organization tracks child product recalls, distributes information on unsafe products (including those ‘hand me downs’ that may have been recalled but the information about them is no longer up.) It was founded by two GSB faculty members.

**[Mocha Moms](#)**. Mocha Moms is a support and service for women of color.

**[Parent Support Network](#)** is a 20+ year volunteer-run organization for families in Hyde Park and surrounding neighborhoods. They have a parenting-related email message board, clothing swaps, play groups, parent groups — such as a book club--and host fun, child-focused events throughout the year. Sign up for their listserv at the link.

**[Poison Control Hotline](#)**. If your little one has gotten into something they shouldn’t have, a kind person at the National Center can help.

**[The University of Chicago Family Resource Center](#)**. (FRC) 773-795-5437. 950 E. 61<sup>st</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. The Center is administered by UChicago Grad. A drop-in Center opens from 10 am to 5 pm weekdays during the academic year, and 10-4 Saturday. (Summer hours are shorter) The FRC welcomes graduate student parents affiliated with the University of Chicago, as well as faculty, staff and alumni families. The Center’s mission is to create a welcoming space where families from the university community can access resources, information and supportive programming and services. FRC offers a spacious playroom and many free or low-cost classes and activities. Membership is free. For more information contact director Lizanne Phalen at [lizannep@uchicago.edu](mailto:lizannep@uchicago.edu). They administer a childcare grant program for PhDs.

**[UChicago Student Parents Listserv](#)**. The FRC manages two moderated, family-focused email lists: Student Parents, for all things family-related, (including our monthly newsletter) and StudentParentsMarketplace, where you can buy, sell, give, or search for items from your fellow parents. Sign up for either or both--you do not need to have a university email.

**UChicago Parents Group** Hosts great monthly Zoom meetings with experts on a variety of parenting-related topics, and publish a newsletter. Though run by employees, students, partners, etc, are very welcome.

**upparent.com** This fun Chicago-area website has all sorts of activity information and idea along with a well-maintained special events calendar. Most of their content is parent submitted, and you can also sign up for their newsletter.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Checker Cab.** 312-CHECKER (243-2537) book online, by phone or by text

**Yellow Cab.** 312-TAXICAB (829-4222) or book online or by text

**AMTRAK.** 800-USA-RAIL (800-872-7245) Chicago Union Station, 225 S. Canal St. One child aged 2-12 is half price with each full-fare adult rider. (Children under 2 free.)

**Zip Car.** If you only need to drive once in a while, consider signing up for this car sharing program. There are many locations in and around Hyde Park; with discount for UChicago.

**Greyhound Bus.** 312-408-5821. 630 W. Harrison St.

**Megabus.** Goes to several Wisconsin and Minnesota cities and has pickup locations at Midway Airport and in the south loop.

**Metra.** Metra runs several commuter train lines, with 3 stations in East Hyde Park. Metra Electric goes to the loop, and South Shore goes to Indiana. Children under 12 are free on weekends and holidays, and otherwise half price. Pandemic subsidies currently mean cheaper train tickets for everyone.

**Go Airport Express.** You need to schedule a trip to either airport, but don't need to book rides back to Hyde Park –if you use one of their 8 neighborhood drop-off spots.

**ParkChicago App.** You can use this app to pay for and extend street parking, but also to find spots ahead of time.

**Ride Shares.** These rideshare companies have changed how we travel and are definitely an easy option in Chicago. [Uber.com](https://www.uber.com) or [Lyft.com](https://www.lyft.com)

**RTA Trip planner** This is a very useful site that allows you to plan a trip using Metra, CTA and PACE buses and trains. Or you could call for help at (312) 836-7000

**Transloc** This app includes all the UChicago routes: the free shuttle buses and the university-sponsored CTA bus routes (170, 171, 172 & 192.)

**University of Chicago Bus Routes.** CTA bus routes 171, 170 and 172 are free to anyone with University ID, as is rte 192 to the loop. There is also a free Hospital Shuttle Service that goes south to remote parking lots, and a Nightride shuttle after 5. (The free shuttles are available to anyone, regardless of whether you have a UChicago ID) Check website for routes and schedules, or download Transloc, above.

## **HEALTH CARE**

**[ACCESS Booker Family Health Center](#)**. 654 E. 47th Street. 773-624-4800.

**[Anne & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital](#)**. 225 E. Chicago Ave. 800- 543-7362.

**[Attune Therapy, Inc.](#)** 1525 E. 55th Street, 773-575-0818. Attune Therapy, Inc. is a pediatric therapy clinic housed in the beautiful Deco Arts Building in Hyde Park since its inception in 2002. Attune's clinicians specialize in working with toddlers, children, and adolescents with sensory processing/regulatory disorders, autism, and other diagnoses. The clinic currently offers individualized occupational therapy and speech therapy as well as play-based social groups that meet weekly. Attune also offers several technology-based therapies including Interactive Metronome, Therapeutic Listening, iLs focus system, and the Safe and Sound Protocol. Attune Therapy, Inc. is an "in network" provider with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of IL. Contact Clinic Manager, Angie Goudschaal, at 773-575-0818 or at [agoudschaal@gmail.com](mailto:agoudschaal@gmail.com)

**[Comer Children's Hospital](#)**. 5721 S. Maryland Avenue. 773- 702-1000 or 888-824-0200. Offers many pediatric specialties, including emergency care for kids up to age 17 (entrance to the ER is at 5730 S. Drexel Ave.)

**[CVS Minute Clinic](#)** 1228 E 53rd St, Chicago, (773) 752-1425. These clinics are in many CVS stores, and care for many common issues, and accept most insurance. They provide basic wellness services including vaccinations, physicals, screenings for adults and kids 18 months+. For a list of what they offer, including any restrictions, visit [minuteclinic/services](http://minuteclinic/services)

**[Friend Family Health Center](#)** (*UChicago Hospital*). 800 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street. 312-682-6110.

**[Insight Hospital and Medical Center](#)** (*formerly Mercy Hospital*). 2525 South Michigan Ave. 312-567- 2000.

**[La Rabida Children's Hospital](#)**. 6501 S. Promontory Drive. 773-363-6700. This hospital focuses on treating children with chronic conditions.

**[Northwestern Memorial Hospital](#)**. 251 E. Huron. 312-926-2000.

**[Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area](#)**. There are many clinics throughout the Chicago area; use the site to search by zip code. Planned Parenthood offers education, family planning, low-cost medical services, and advocacy.

**[Student Health Services](#)**. 860 E. 59<sup>th</sup> St., Suite R100 (Goldblatt Pavilion Entrance.) 773-702-4156. Student Health Services are located in the UChicago Medical Center and are designed to serve all the health care needs of students.

**[University of Chicago Primary Care Group](#)**. Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine (DCAM) 5758 S. Maryland Ave., Ste. 3C. 773-702-6840.

**[Walgreens Take Care Clinic](#)**. 1554 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St. 773-667-1177. Clinics inside Walgreens stores offer basic kid's physicals and vaccinations at low cost, in addition to miscellaneous basic medical services. Appointments are not necessary; see website for clinic hours.

## **MENTAL HEALTH and WELLNESS SERVICES**

**Refresh Program** 7-week online program for undergraduates and graduate students; skills and support to achieve better quality sleep. They also publish “The Snooze Letter” with lots of info on the science of sleep.

**Sounding Board** Students, post docs and alumni can make an appointment with a mental health professional to discuss optimizing work/life balance and satisfaction, either in-person or remote sessions available. Sponsored by UChicagoGrad.

**Student Counseling and Service**. 5555 S. Woodlawn Ave. 773-702- 9800. The Student Counseling and Service (SCS) provides mental health care to University of Chicago students, their partners, and their dependents. The services offered includes assessment, crisis intervention, short-term psychotherapy with individuals (including children) and couples, brief group therapy, medication management, academic skills counseling, and referral services. All services begin with an intake appointment. SCRS also runs a couple of ongoing walk-in programs aimed at academic performance: **ASAP** and **Let’s Talk**

### ***Yoga and Meditation Classes in the area***

- **Blue Lotus Chicago** 816 E. 63rd Street. 773-599-1892 Blue Lotus offers many meditation and Yoga classes, including pre and post-natal, with childcare available by appointment
- **Ratner Athletic Center** 5530 S. Ellis Ave. Yoga class times and offerings vary by quarter.
- **Spiritual Life** at UChicago offers free meditation and Yoga classes throughout the quarter, at Bond, Ida Noyes and Rockefeller Chapel.
- **Twenty Minutes of Still** Begin your day with twenty minutes of quiet meditation at Bond Chapel, every weekday of the autumn, winter, and spring quarters at 8 am. Free; refreshments served on Mondays.
- **Yoga Six-Hyde Park** 1618 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street (312) 825-1167

## **HOUSING**

**UChicago Safety Assessment**. University-affiliated off campus residents can request a visit from UChicago’s security office. The representative will let you know of any areas of safety concern, then give suggestions for addressing them.

**University of Chicago Residential Services**. 773.753.2218 This office will help you find area rental housing— including university-owned properties, priced below market value.

***UChicago Residence Heads***. If you and your partner love spending time with students, consider applying to become a Residence Head (RH)—free housing is included. They especially like having parents in these important roles, and the family apartments within the dorms can be very nice. [Uchicago.edu/housing-residence-life/staffing-opportunities](http://Uchicago.edu/housing-residence-life/staffing-opportunities)

**Mac Properties, Chicago Apartments**. 1364 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. 773-825-6651. Mac Properties is one of the main landlords in Hyde Park.