

Laurie Wilson - NS Newsdesk Sun, 01/30/2011 - 16:15

Best Indoor Play Spaces for Kids in Chelsea



citytreehouse.com

Keeping the family happy and smiling on a hot, humid day, a cold, snowy winter day, a soaking rainy day or (let's face it) a perfectly normal, sunny day, can be a huge challenge for parents of the littlest ones. It's days like these when the itsy bitsy spider has become a giant tarantula and you are counting the minutes until 5 o'clock for that glass of wine (it's 5 o'clock somewhere, you tell yourself at 4:30). Well, during these times, don't stress. Chelsea is abundant with plenty of indoor play spaces that offer child care and activities that will you keep your little ones smiling and out of your hair.

Apple Seeds

Apple Seeds is a 15,000-square-foot godsend for Chelsea parents of kids ages newborn to five. It's more than a playground. There are 100-plus art, music, movement, sports and language classes offered every week, as well as an indoor playground for kids to, well, play, which makes Apple Seeds more of a destination. It's a community center with a boutique and bookstore and even a café and hair salon for kids. Need a camp this summer? Happy campers can come here,

Membership is necessary and, of course, with membership comes privileges like guest passes, priority unlimited indoor playground time, and special events like concerts, book readings, and Apple Seeds' Halloween costume party.

City Treehouse

If you don't want to go the membership route, the wonderful City Treehouse is where your kids (two months to eight years old) can climb the walls (so to speak) on a drop in basis (first-come, first-served, only 20 kids are allowed at a time.) You buy packs of hours for use up to a year.

Yes, there's an actual tree house to climb, that's no surprise. But there's also a "soft play room" for babies and toddlers, a shallow water table known as "Splash" for kids 18 months to 8 years old and a secret cave for exploring. Classes are also offered (storytelling, literacy and language skills, dramatic play and construction classes.)

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City Treehouse is located at 129A West 20 Street, near 7th Avenue.

Apple Seeds is located at 10 West 25th Street, near 5th Avenue.