

Notable parents on why NYC is the best city in the world

We asked some of our favorite New York parents to tell us why NYC is the absolute best city in the world to raise a family.

By **Rory Halperin** Wed Mar 6 2013

Deciding where to raise children is a big decision, but for these notable New York parents (chefs, designers, authors and entrepreneurs), it was a no-brainer: There's no where else they'd rather live with their kids than New York City. We asked them to tell us why NYC is the [best city in the world to raise a family](#)—answers ranged from "we have instant access to art" to "the city teaches kids to be open-minded and tolerant." Scroll through our slide show to read all of their comments, then tweet us at [@timeoutkids](#) to let us know why you think NYC is the best city in the world for families.



[Alison Qualter Berna](#), co-owner of [apple seeds](#) and mom to Madeleine and Sydney, both 7, and Jack, 3

Why is New York City the best city in the world to raise a family?

“Raising children in NYC offers things that are difficult for many parents to teach: By living in the most internationally diverse city, children grow up making friends from around the world, hearing a variety of languages and seeing the world as a smaller, more accessible place. NYC also offers the highest quality in cultural offerings and activities for kids—in what other city can you access the caliber and quality of children’s theater, music concerts, dance performances and other events? In terms of the question everyone seems to ask (how do you balance apartment living with the need for green grass?), it is not only possible to find a park or playground in every NYC neighborhood, but it is also quite simple to get out of the city, something we do nearly every weekend to access the outdoors on a regular basis. Finally, NYC is a city that people from around the world love to visit, meaning friends and family from all parts of the world never feel too far away.”

[Allison Schlanger](#), co-owner of [apple seeds](#) and mom to Sam and Ari, both 8, and Dov, 2

Why is New York City the best city in the world to raise a family?

“We love that we can walk anywhere and be at our destination in minutes. Everything is reachable and doable the day you want to do it. We love looking out our window at the Empire State Building and watching the lights change nightly, knowing that the very same light show is being seen by millions of strangers at the very same time. The city can be big and anonymous and so familiar and secure—all depending on where you find yourself. We love that our kids can be exactly who they are and who they want to be, and that the city embraces them and affords so many opportunities for them to find their niche.”