

Mommy
Nearest

From the Expert: To Join or Not to Join, Appleseeds in the Big Apple

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Mommy Nearest's "From the Expert," blog posts are daily reviews and interesting anecdotes of places that appear on the Mommy Nearest Mobile App. The opinions expressed in these posts are solely those of the author's.



By Lauren Patterson, Founder, [Little Swappies](#), *Follow Lauren on Twitter @littleswappies* and like Little Swappies on Facebook [here](#)

Editor's Note: While **Mommy Nearest** is a mobile resource that helps parents make decisions while they are on the go, we've encouraged our Expert Mom's to weigh in on myriad subjects, including their opinions on indoor play-spaces that require memberships. We want our Mommy Nearest community to be "in the know" on everything child-related, including things that may not be spur of the moment. We hope you enjoy!

Deciding whether or not to join an indoor play gym can be a big decision. It is hard to commit to a year-long membership without having much information – usually just a short tour (unless you already have friends who are members). I hope that this review is helpful to other looking into joining one of these indoor gyms.

We joined the [Appleseeds Chelsea](#) location when I was pregnant with our second child and have been very happy with that decision. Appleseeds has a huge indoor play space for New York standards. The play space is “New York” themed with things like a New York apartment building slide, a taxi cab and a New York deli with shopping baskets to put food in.



Although children must be with a caregiver at all times, employees are always around to monitor things. This is important because the space can get very busy at certain times of the day and caregivers don't always watch their children as carefully as they should.

What I really like about the membership is that the play space is always open during their hours of operation. Some of the play spaces that we looked at had set times that their play areas could be used, and for me that is not convenient.

I initially balked at joining in indoor play gym because I was scared of germs and my daughter getting sick from other children playing. However, Appleseeds is quite clean and I am told that the toys are cleaned nightly which is cleaner than taking my kids to the park.



Build it! Break it! Fix it!

Overall, I highly recommend joining an indoor play gym like Appleseeds. Winter can be long with children cooped up in apartments, and having a place for them to run and play has been a lifesaver on many days.

If you don't live in Chelsea, there are plenty of other indoor play spaces listed on the [Mommy Nearest app](#). So take a look, try a free class (most of them offer introductory services) and don't be afraid to commit. New York has some of the best indoor play spaces in the world. You'll be happy you joined!