

Indoor Playspaces and Drop-in Programs

This overview focuses on indoor places that are ideal for toddlers and preschoolers. All places are specifically for kids under 6 unless otherwise noted. Refer to Arlington Family Connection's monthly calendar (www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org) or The Compleat DayTripper (www.piercepress.com) for additional details and locations. Also refer to Arlington Family Connection's 'Weekly At A Glance' document for other weekly winter activities for young children.

Playspace <i>(distance from Arl. Ctr.)</i>	Highlights & Activities	Food	Hours & Prices	Phone & Web
AFC Playtime! <i>(Mass. Ave., Arl. Heights)</i>	Ages 4 & under. Clean, carpeted and sunny space with tons of misc toys, blocks, duplos, play tents, books and puzzles. Also circle time with parachute, story & song.	Coffee provided. Snacks allowed in play area.	10-11:30am Mondays (including holidays) \$3/family	781-316-8181 www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org
Arl. Rec. Dept. Toddlers & Twos @ Gibbs Gym <i>(Foster St., Arlington)</i>	Ages 15-36 months. Huge gym with lots of space to run. Tons of ride-on toys, balls and blocks. Plus a slide, trampoline and tumbling mats, books, puzzles, craft table.	Snacks allowed in play area.	9:30-11am Wed & Fri. \$5/child Closed school vacations	781-316-3880 www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index
Bedford Family Connection Playroom <i>(Bedford, 25 minutes)</i>	Large clean room with play kitchen, playhouse, and lots of misc. toys.	Snack provided (at tables within playroom).	9:30-11:30am M-F \$2/child/non-memb. Closed holidays/vacations	781-275-5231 www.kidsplaybedford.com
Belmont KidSpace <i>(Belmont, 15 minutes)</i>	Parent-run cooperative for ages 5 & under. Many play areas: train table, designated crawlers area, blocks, dress ups, and a gym with ride-ons, climbing structures and balls.	Snacks allowed at tables adjacent to play area.	Varies M, Th, F, Sat, Sun. Call for details. \$45/season. \$10/1-time visit. Closed holidays/vacations	617-489-5446 www.belmontkidspace.org
Fidelity House Tot Time <i>(Medford St., Arlington)</i>	Ages 5 & under. Large gym with ride-ons, tunnels, play tents, balls, slides and misc toys.	Snacks allowed in play area.	9:30 or 10:30am Fridays \$5/child Closed school vacations	781-648-2005 www.fidelityhouse.org
Gymnastics Academy of Boston <i>(Cambridge, 10 minutes)</i>	Ages 1 & up (young teens too). Running trampoline, tumbling mats, obstacle course, balance beam, separate enclosed toddler area with ball pit, mini obstacle course.	Snack area separate from play area.	11:30am-1pm M-F \$5/members; \$10/non-members	617-441-9700 www.gymnasticacademy.com
Imagine That <i>(Lawrence, 45 minutes)</i>	Ages 1-9 yrs. Large clean space with many areas for imaginative play: construction area, train table, large pretend grocery store (with carts!), sand box, art studio, and climbers with tunnels.	Cafe sells food. No outside food allowed. Food not allowed in play area.	9-5pm Mon.-Thurs.Fri.9-8pm, Sat. & Sun. 9-5pm \$8.95 3yrs.+ \$6.95 1-2yrs.	978- 682-5338 www.imajinethat.com
Isis Maternity Drop-in Playgroup	Large new, clean, carpeted room with lots of misc toys, balls and Rodys .	Snacks allowed in play area.	Ages 0-1 1:45pm Thurs. Ages 1-3 3:30pm Fri. Free/memb; \$5/non-memb	781-429-1500 www.isismaternity.com
LPPTA WinterFun & LPPTA Drop-In Center <i>(Lexington, 15 minutes)</i>	Multiple tables with various crafts in a school cafeteria. Also a small area with toys for little ones. Indoor playspace for 0-5yr. olds & caregivers to play	Snacks allowed in play area.	9:30-11am alt. Wed. \$2/child. Closed holidays/vacations 9:30-11:30am Fri. \$1/child	781-538-5648 or 781-676-2041 www.lppta.org

Playspace <i>(distance from Arl. Ctr.)</i>	Highlights & Activities	Food	Hours & Prices	Phone & Web
Parent & Tot Connection <i>(Boys & Girls Club, Arl.)</i>	Ages 5 & under. Large room with many play areas: playdoh table, puzzles, play kitchen, blocks, reading corner, touch table and misc toys.	Snacks allowed in play area.	9:30-11am Fridays Free Closed school vacations	781-648-1617 www.abgclub.org
Perpetual Motion <i>(Lowell, 30 minutes)</i>	Huge clean warehouse with lots of room to run. Life-sized train structure to play on, ball pit, play kitchen, building blocks, sand box, balls, swings and more.	Cafe sells food. Allows outside food. Food not allowed in play area.	9:30am-5:30pm 7 days. (until 7:30pm Th & Fri) \$7.50 (free under 9 mo)	978-452-0777 www.perpetualmotioninc.com
Puddlestompers Playgroup <i>(Fox Library, Arlington)</i>	Lots of misc toys, play tents, duplos, blocks, toddler activity stations, books, puzzles. The group ventures outside to playgrounds in nice weather.	Snacks allowed in play area.	10-11:30am Weds. \$1/family	781-648-3342 siendo@verizon.net (to join email list)
Together in Motion <i>(Broadway, Arlington)</i>	New, clean, large room with padded floor and many large soft shapes for building, climbing and more. Also balls, tunnels, tot hockey and facilitated play area. Best for ages 10-36 months though allows up to age 6.	Snack area separate from play area.	1:30-5pm M-F, 9-11am Sat & Sun. \$7/child ages 1-6 \$5 ages 6 mo-1 yr	781-642-1377 www.togetherinmotion.com
Totplex <i>(Canton, 35 minutes)</i>	Large indoor artificial turf soccer field with 2 moon bounces, an inflatable train/maze, ride-ons, toddler activity centers, tumbling mats and more.	No food in play area. Cafe on-site. Allows outside food.	9am-2pm M-F \$8/child, sibling discounts Closed holidays/vacations	781-821-0304 x 34 www.totplex.com
Tumblekids <i>(Winchester, 15 minutes)</i>	Ages 1 & up (young teens too). Clean open gymnastics area with ball area, running trampoline, tumbling mats, huge ball pit.	Snack area separate from play area.	10:30-12 Thurs. 12:30-2pm Fri. \$10/child	781-721-1144 www.tumblekidsusa.com
Winchester Recreation Playtime <i>(Winchester, 10 minutes)</i>	Ages 9 mo – 4 yrs. Small gym with tumbling mats and wedges, ride-ons, trucks, balls, tunnels and play tents.	Coffee & munchkins provided. Snacks allowed in play area.	9:30-11am Thurs. \$5/family Closed school vacations	781-721-7125 www.winrec.com
Winterpark at Waldorf <i>(Lexington, 15 minutes)</i>	Ages 3 & under. Carpeted room with toys for free play. Circle songs and games. Ends with a story or puppet show. Lead by early childhood development teachers.	Snack provided, served in play area.	1-2:30pm Fridays \$5-\$10 donation requested Closed school vacations	781-863-1062 www.thewaldorfschool.org

For additional indoor fun, check out the **Boston Museum of Science Kids Room** (the general museum also has lots of room to run and exhibits to explore), the **Acton Discovery Museum** (many rooms for imaginative play), the **Franklin Park Zoo** indoor Gorilla exhibit (warm tropical environment with great animals!), the **New England Aquarium** and the **Boston Children's Museum**.

If you're looking for places for older preschoolers or a slightly wilder environment (many have multi-level tubes and tunnels, as well as indoor rides and arcades), check out **aMAZement Play Center** (Haverhill), **Bonkers Funhouse** (Peabody), **FunWorld** (Nashua), **Kids Playground** (Woburn) or **One Stop Fun Gym Mania** (Westford).

Source: Arlington Family Connection, January 2008