

# GUGGENHEIM

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

### BEFORE YOUR VISIT

#### For Parents

- Familiarize yourself with the [exhibitions](#) that will be on view and determine which might be of greatest interest to you and your child.
- See the [Calendar](#) to find out which programs are happening the day you plan to visit. If you haven't already, review a full list of [Family & Kids programs](#).
- If possible, come to the museum in the morning. Children are less tired, and the museum is less crowded.
- A meaningful and comfortable visit for most children (and many adults) might be 30–90 minutes. View information about [hours, admission prices, and more](#).

#### For Kids

- Look at [photos](#) of the museum with your child to get her excited about seeing the Guggenheim's iconic architecture. You may want to download our Architecture [Family Activity Guide](#) (PDF), or pick it up when you arrive.
- Talk about what he might see in an art museum, such as paintings, sculpture, photography, films, and installations.
- Tell your child that there are certain special rules that all visitors must follow when they come to a museum:
  - Touch the works of art only with your eyes, never with your hands.
  - Do not disturb other visitors by running or shouting.
  - Stay at least three feet (two meters) away from works of art when you look at them.

### WHILE YOU'RE HERE

#### Strollers and Coat Check

- Check your bags and coats. This is a free service that will greatly enhance your ability to enjoy your visit.
- Single-baby strollers are permitted in the museum. However, large toddler carriers, double-sided strollers, and jogging strollers must be checked in the coatroom. Backpacks and bags smaller than 16" x 16" are permitted in the museum, but must be checked. All bags are subject to inspection. Visitors may check these items in the coatroom. Bags larger than 16" x 16", suitcases, and luggage are not permitted and cannot be checked in.

#### Restrooms

- Women's and men's restrooms are located on every ramp, as well as on level B in the Sackler Center for Arts Education.

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- Baby-changing stations are available in men's and women's restrooms on levels B, 4, and 7.

## **Food**

- In the Rotunda (lobby) small snacks for kids are permitted while they are in strollers or on the benches. Visit the Museum's café on the third floor for family-friendly snacks and beverages. No food or drink is permitted in the galleries. Outside the museum
- There are various food vendors. Other kid-friendly restaurants are located on Madison and Lexington avenues, just a short walk from the Guggenheim.

## **Family Activity Kiosk**

- On weekends, look for the Family Activity Kiosk in the center of the Rotunda. There you will be greeted by an educator who will tell you all about the Family Activity Packs, Family Activity Guides, journals, and pencils that are available with ideas for making your visit both fun and interactive. On weekdays these materials are available at the Information Desk. Pens, crayons, and markers are not allowed in the galleries.

## **LOOKING AT ART TOGETHER**

### **You Don't Have to See the Whole Museum in One Visit**

Expect to spend between 30 and 90 minutes in the galleries.

Remember to take breaks for bathrooms and snacks. Take cues from your kids (you know them best).

Walk around the galleries, but encourage stopping, sitting, and talking about at least two of works of art in depth (see below for tips).

## **Look and Talk**

- Seat yourself comfortably, either on one of the museum benches or on the floor in front of a work of art.
- Start a conversation with your child by asking open-ended questions, which have many possible answers.
- Examples of open-ended questions to ask in front of an artwork:
  - What do you see?
  - What colors do you see? What shapes?
  - What is happening here? What were your clues?
  - What may have happened before? What might happen next?
  - Does the artwork remind you of anything you know or have experienced?

## **Encourage Drawing, Writing, and Actively Engaging with Works of Art**

Some suggestions

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- Pick up our Family Activity Packs, Family Activity Guides, or a sketchbook and pencils at our Family Activity Kiosk (on weekends) or at the Information Desk. They're free!
- Draw part of a work of art—focusing on one object or altering something from the work.
- Write a list of words that come to mind or a poem about the work either as a group, or individually, and then share what you've written.
- Compare two works of art. How are they similar to each other? How are they different?
- Imagine your own title for a work of art. Then look at the label to see what the artist titled it. Does knowing the title change the way you understand the artwork?

## **BACK AT HOME**

### **Reflect on What You Experienced at the Museum:**

- What was your favorite part of your visit? Why?
- Most museums' missions include collecting works of art. Usually museums only can show a small fraction of their collection in the galleries. Share with your child the many works of art in our Collection Online and talk about the idea of collecting.
- Why do people collect things?
- Share what you and your child like to collect by creating an exhibition of your collection and displaying it in a new way.
- Create a gallery wall in your home dedicated to showcasing your child's art.