

play:groundNYC

transforming our city through play

The Yard on Governors Island

Where are you located?

Our adventure playground site, The Yard, is on the Brooklyn Ferry Terminal between St. Cornelius Church and the water. You can take the Governors Island ferry from the Battery Maritime Building or the NYC Ferry service in the summer months.

When is The Yard open?

We are open to the public on weekends during Governors Island's season, May to October, from 12pm to 4pm. Doors close around 3:45 pm, in order to allow children a sufficient amount of time on site to engage in play before the closes at 4 pm.

How much does it cost to play at The Yard?

It is FREE for your child to play at The Yard, but we gratefully accept donations onsite and through our website (PayPal) to help defray the costs of operating The Yard. We also have play:groundNYC t-shirts for a \$20 donation or more.

What are the recommended ages for playing at The Yard?

The main play area, staffed by playworkers, is recommended for ages 6 to 18 years old. The family adventure play area is intended for children under 6, where we ask for parent or adult caregiver supervision at all times.

How many kids can be on the adventure playground?

The main play area is limited by our resources to hire playworkers. Currently we can accommodate roughly 50 kids on the site on a first come first served basis. The family adventure play area is more flexible and determined by the playworkers on a case by case basis.

Why are closed toe shoes required?

Closed-toe shoes are required on the adventure part of The Yard because children are using tools like saws, hammers, nails and closed-toe shoes help protect children's feet.

Why are parents or caregivers not allowed into the adventure playground?

The Yard is an adult-free space (with the exception of the playworkers and the parents of kids with special needs). This allows children to move freely in the space, making their own choices about play, without advice or guidance from adults. Playworkers are available if they need a grown-up. If you need to retrieve your child, our playworkers are available to assist, however adults are not permitted inside The Yard.

What should I do while my children are at The Yard?

Learn more about play:groundNYC in nearby Building 11 where you can watch a short documentary about our work or read more about playworking. Take a walk around Governors Island, see some art, eat some food or take a nap on the grassy lawn adjacent to The Yard. Parents are invited and encouraged to sit back and relax. Spend a couple minutes observing your children at play without the daily pressure of teaching/correcting/judging them. Trust the playworkers to support your children at play.