

# THE CHARLOTTE SPROUT'S GUIDE TO INDOOR PLAY SPACES



Name	Location	Best for ages	What they offer	Hours	Pricing	Notes
<b>Discovery Place Kids - Huntersville</b>	Huntersville, NC	1-5+	Hands-on children's museum, play exhibits	Tuesday – Sunday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	\$15 online, \$18 at the door. Kids under 1 free Membership starts at \$209/yr	Educational + stroller-friendly. Separate area for infants and pre-walkers
<b>ImaginOn: The Joe &amp; Joan Martin Center</b>	Uptown Charlotte	0-5+	Free children's library, story spaces, programs	Monday - Thursday 9 AM-8 PM Friday & Saturday 9 AM-5 PM Sunday 1-5 PM	Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also home to the Charlotte Childrens Theater.</li> <li>Includes a baby and toddler area for the youngest patrons to explore and discover.</li> <li>Staff members with expertise in early literacy, child development, and children's and teen literature are always available to help find just the right book, resource, or information for all library visitors.</li> </ul>
<b>The Schiele Museum of Natural History &amp; Planetarium</b>	Gastonia, NC	0-5+	Natural history exhibits, dinosaur fossils, wildlife exhibits, planetarium shows and more interactive learning space	Monday – Friday: 10 AM – 4 PM Saturday: 10 AM – 5 PM Sunday: 1 – 5 PM	Adults: \$12 Seniors (65+): \$10 Youth (3-18): \$10 Child (0-2): Free  Additional \$5/pp for planetarium	Indoor exhibits plus planetarium and outdoor areas
<b>The Bunny Hive</b>	Charlotte	0-5	Parent + child classes (music, sensory, storytime)	Classes run from 9am - 5pm weekdays, 10am - 12pm Saturdays	\$30/class, \$150/month membership for unlimited classes. 2 week unlimited free trial offered	Sample classes (most are 30 minutes) Baby Music Baby Massage Culinary Exploration Art Music Ballet
<b>Playland Pineville</b>	Pineville	1-5+	Large indoor playground + cafe	Mon 09:00 am – 06:00 pm Tue - Thu 09:00 am – 07:00 pm Wed Fri - Sun 09:00 am – 08:00 pm  -Reservations are recommended for weekends and holidays. All other days are walk-in play.	2 hour block: Mon - Thurs \$14.99 Fri - Sun & Holidays \$16.99  Additional children are \$2 cheaper. 2 free adults per family	T-Shirt Perk Day Wear your Playland T-Shirt on Thursdays for 50% off admission.  Last Hour Discount 50% off admission for the last hour of play every day
<b>High Five Playhouse</b>	Matthews	2-6	Indoor playground	Monday-Thursday: 10:00am-5:00pm Friday: 10:00am-7:00pm Saturday-Sunday: 10:00am-8:00pm	\$19 for a 2 hour block  Additional children are \$2 cheaper	The Indoor playground is the perfect social setting for young children to build new friendships or come and burn off some energy.

<b>Grow Cafe</b>	Charlotte	0-6	Play space + cafe	<p>Monday Open Play: 9:00AM - 12:00 PM Café pickup only: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM</p> <p>Tuesday &amp; Thursday Open Play &amp; Café: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Wednesday Open Play &amp; Café: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM</p> <p>Friday &amp; Saturday Open Play &amp; Café: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday Private Bookings &amp; Events Only</p>	<p>1-Hour Weekday Play \$9.99</p> <p>1-Hour Weekend play \$12.99</p> <p>2-Hour Weekday Play \$14.99</p> <p>2-Hour Weekend Play \$16.99</p> <p>Membership starts at \$45/mo</p>	<p>Grow Cafe has an amazing selection of delicious latte flavors, coffees, teas, and pastry items to enjoy.</p> <p>Also host events for parents, such as pelvic floor workshops, plus crafting and play events for children</p>
<b>Play House (Play Cafe)</b>	Fort Mill, SC	0-6	Indoor play rooms + cafe	<p>Normal Open Play hours are Wednesdays &amp; Fridays 9am-1pm, reservations recommended.</p> <p>Saturday-Sunday Varies depending on party bookings.</p>	<p>\$12 per child 12 months and younger FREE with a paid sibling, \$6 if not with a paid sibling. 1 free adult per 1 paid child admission. Additional adults \$5/each paid at the time of check-in</p> <p>Membership starts at \$45/mo</p> <p>Drop-In Childcare Tuesdays or Thursdays 8:30-11:30am \$45/Day</p>	<p>Offers open play, parents night out, and birthday parties for children under 7, plus a preschool for children ages 2-5. Note parents night out and preschool curriculum do contain faith-based elements</p>
<b>We Kan Go Play</b>	Mount Holly	2-6	Small indoor play space	<p>Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 2:00 pm Saturday: 9 am - 11:30 am</p> <p>Evening Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm</p>	<p>\$12/child for 2 hours of open play Infants under 11 months admitted free when accompanied by a paying sibling. 2 adults per family included in admission</p>	<p>Offers open play, birthday parties, and parents night out events</p>
<b>Big Air Trampoline Park</b>	Multiple	4-5+ (toddler zone varies)	Trampolines + foam pits	<p>Monday &amp; Wednesday 1PM - 8PM Tuesday &amp; Thursday 10AM - 8PM Friday: 1PM - 10PM Saturday: 10AM - 10PM Sunday: 10AM - 8PM</p>	<p>1.5 Hour Pass: \$23 2 Hour Pass: \$28 Unlimited Pass: \$35</p> <p>Price does not include grip socks. Ages 2 &amp; under are \$5 with paying adult</p>	<p>Energetic play for older kids. Great place to host a birthday party or bring out of town guests.</p> <p>Cosmic Nights Fridays &amp; Saturdays: 7PM-10PM</p> <p>Toddler Time Tuesdays, Thursdays &amp; Sundays: 10AM-1PM</p>
<b>Museum of Illusions - Charlotte</b>	Charlotte	4-5+ (parent accompanied)	Visual + sensory exhibits	<p>Mon - Thurs 10 AM-9 PM Fri - Sat 10 AM-10 PM Sunday 10 AM-9 PM</p>	<p>Starts at \$33/pp. Family pass is \$112 (2 adults, 2 children). Children under 5 free</p>	<p>The experience should typically last between 45 and 90 minutes.</p>
<b>Discovery Place Science</b>	Uptown Charlotte	3-5+	Interactive STEM exhibits	<p>Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday &amp; Sunday 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Adults: \$24 Children: \$19 Seniors: \$21</p>	<p>Great museum for pre-schoolers. Check out the Discovery Place Children's Museum for younger toddlers.</p>
<b>Main Street Children's Museum</b>	Rock Hill, SC	0-5+	Immersive children's museum	<p>Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm</p>	<p>\$10/pp, children under 1 free</p>	<p>There is dedicated stroller parking in the museum and benches available for nursing mothers in the back of the museum near the family restrooms.</p>

<b>Museum of York County</b>	Rock Hill, SC	0-5+	Natural history exhibits, planetarium shows and more interactive learning space	Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday 1pm-5pm	Adults \$12 Seniors \$10 Children 4+ \$8 Children under 4 free	Close day trip, kids love to look at the life-sized animal displays and planetarium.
<b>The Grove CLT</b>	Charlotte	0-5+	Membership club with play spaces, supervised programming, activities for young kids, cafe, parent spaces, classes, and community events	Monday - Friday, 9am - 7pm Saturday - Sunday , 8am - 1pm <small>*Hours may vary based on season</small>	<b>EXPECTANT MEMBERSHIP</b> Joining Fee: \$3,500 (One-time only) Monthly Dues: \$0 until a little one arrives, then standard family membership applies  <b>FAMILY MEMBERSHIP</b> Standard Membership, Members will receive full access to all club privileges. Joining Fee: \$3,950 (One-time only) Monthly Dues: \$250 family of 3, \$275 family of 4, \$300 family of 5+  <b>THE LAST LAP MEMBERSHIP</b> Annual Membership, for more mature families who may only need The Grove for a short while. Joining Fee: \$2,750 / Each Year After \$1,750 Monthly Dues: \$250 family of 3, \$275 family of 4, \$300 family of 5+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership includes access to open play and scheduled activities like sensory Saturdays and group storytimes</li> <li>The space feels calm and well-designed with parents in mind, including café seating and independent play areas</li> <li>Offers community-building events for families and opportunities to meet other parents</li> <li>Some programming lets parents enjoy the space while kids are engaged under supervision</li> <li>Although not a traditional free play drop-in (membership required), many families find the programming and atmosphere worth it for regular use and connection with other parents</li> </ul>

## How to Use This Guide

Not every indoor play space works for every child - or every parent. Some spots are perfect for burning energy, while others shine when you want a calmer outing, a learning-focused experience, or a place where you can sit down with coffee while your child plays.

Use the matrix above to compare logistics like hours and pricing, then use the notes below to decide what kind of outing you're actually in the mood for.

## Discovery Place Kids – Huntersville

Location: Huntersville, NC

Best for ages: 1–5+

What they offer: Hands-on children's museum with play-based exhibits designed for early childhood

Discovery Place Kids is a children's museum built specifically for younger kids, which makes a big difference if you've ever felt overwhelmed at larger museums. Exhibits are interactive, imaginative, and scaled for little bodies, with plenty of opportunities for role play and open-ended exploration. There is also a separate area just for infants and pre-walkers, which is a huge plus for families with babies.

This is a great option when you want an outing that feels both fun and educational, especially on cold or rainy days.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Educational but still very play-forward
- Stroller-friendly layout
- Separate space for infants and pre-walkers
- Timed tickets help manage crowds

Pricing: \$15 online, \$18 at the door. Kids under 1 are free. Memberships start at \$209/year.

Time limits / reservations: Timed tickets required.

## ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center

Location: Uptown Charlotte

Best for ages: 0–5+

What they offer: Free children's library, story spaces, early literacy programs, and children's theater

ImaginOn is one of the best free indoor resources for families in Charlotte. While it's not an indoor playground, it offers thoughtfully designed spaces for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers to explore books, stories, and imaginative play. There are designated areas for younger children, and staff with expertise in early literacy and child development are always available to help.

It's a wonderful low-pressure outing where you can come and go as needed, especially if you're navigating nap schedules or short attention spans.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Completely free
- Baby and toddler areas included
- Calm environment compared to play gyms
- Also home to Charlotte Children's Theatre

Pricing: Free

Time limits / reservations: Drop-in during open hours.

## The Schiele Museum of Natural History & Planetarium

Location: Gastonia, NC

Best for ages: 0-5+ (and siblings)

What they offer: Natural history exhibits, dinosaur fossils, wildlife displays, planetarium shows, and interactive learning spaces

The Schiele Museum is a fantastic option for curious kids who love dinosaurs, animals, and science. Indoor exhibits make this a solid cold-weather destination, and the planetarium adds an extra layer of excitement for preschoolers who can sit through a show. There are also outdoor components, which makes this a flexible choice across seasons.

This works well as a half-day outing when you want something a little bigger than a play space.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Indoor exhibits plus planetarium
- Great for curious preschoolers
- Outdoor areas available when weather allows

Pricing:

Adults \$12

Seniors \$10

Youth (3-18) \$10

Children 0-2 free

Planetarium shows are an additional \$5 per person

Time limits / reservations: No general time blocks; planetarium shows run on a schedule.

## The Bunny Hive

Location: Charlotte

Best for ages: 0-5

What they offer: Parent-and-child classes including music, sensory play, art, movement, and storytime

The Bunny Hive focuses on structured classes rather than open play, making it a great fit for families who enjoy routine and enrichment. Classes are short, engaging, and developmentally focused, and there's a strong emphasis on building parent community alongside child development.

This is especially popular with parents of babies and young toddlers.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Class-based structure
- Strong sense of community
- Two-week unlimited free trial available
- Wide variety of class types

- Pricing: \$30 per class or \$150/month for unlimited classes

Time limits / reservations: Classes run on a set schedule; advance booking required.

## Playland Pineville

Location: Pineville

Best for ages: 1-5+

What they offer: Large indoor playground with café

Playland Pineville is a go-to when kids need to move. The large play structures make this an excellent option for burning energy, especially during cold or rainy weather. Play is sold in two-hour blocks, which helps keep visits manageable.

Perks like T-shirt discounts and last-hour deals make this a popular repeat spot for families.

Parent-friendly notes:

- High-energy environment
- Café on-site
- Two free adults included per family
- Discounts available on certain days

Pricing:

2-hour block

Mon-Thurs \$14.99

Fri-Sun & holidays \$16.99

Additional children are \$2 cheaper

Time limits / reservations: Two-hour play blocks; reservations recommended on weekends and holidays.

## High Five Playhouse

Location: Matthews

Best for ages: 2-6

What they offer: Indoor playground

High Five Playhouse offers a classic indoor playground experience that's easy and predictable, which many parents appreciate. It's a great spot for playdates and social play, especially for toddlers and preschoolers who love climbing and exploring.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Easy playdate meet-up spot
- Straightforward indoor playground setup

- Weekday and weekend hours available

Pricing: \$19 for a 2-hour block (additional children \$2 cheaper)

Time limits / reservations: Timed entry.

## Grow Cafe

Location: Charlotte

Best for ages: 0-6

What they offer: Indoor play space combined with a café

Grow Cafe blends kid-friendly play with a parent-friendly coffee shop atmosphere. It's especially popular for weekday mornings when parents want to sit and supervise with a latte in hand. They also host events for parents and kids, including workshops and crafting activities.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Excellent coffee and pastries
- Seating and relaxed supervision
- Hosts parent-focused events

Pricing:

1-hour weekend play \$12.99

2-hour weekday play \$14.99

2-hour weekend play \$16.99

Memberships start at \$45/month

Time limits / reservations: Open play during posted hours; Sundays reserved for private events.

## Play House (Play Cafe)

Location: Fort Mill, SC

Best for ages: 0-6

What they offer: Indoor play rooms with café-style setup, childcare options, and events

Play House is calmer and more contained than larger indoor playgrounds, making it a great option for toddlers. In addition to open play, they offer drop-in childcare, parents' night out, birthday parties, and a preschool program.

Parents should note that some programming includes faith-based elements.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Calm, manageable environment
- Childcare options available
- Preschool program for ages 2-5

Pricing: \$12 per child. Children 12 months and under are free with a paid sibling. Memberships start at \$45/month.

Time limits / reservations: Open play on select days; reservations recommended.

## We Kan Go Play

Location: Mount Holly

Best for ages: 2-6

What they offer: Small indoor play space with open play and events

We Kan Go Play is a smaller indoor play option that works especially well for toddlers and preschoolers who may feel overwhelmed in larger spaces. The setup is simple and contained, making it easier to supervise younger kids.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Great for younger children
- Two adults included per family
- Hosts parents' night out events

Pricing: \$12 per child for 2 hours of open play. Infants under 11 months are free with a paying sibling.

Time limits / reservations: Two-hour open play sessions.

## Big Air Trampoline Park

Location: Multiple locations

Best for ages: 4-5+ (toddler zones vary)

What they offer: Trampolines, foam pits, and high-energy movement play

Big Air is best for older preschoolers and kids who love big movement. Toddler Time sessions make it more accessible for younger children, but this is generally better suited for confident movers.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Toddler Time available
- Fun option for special outings
- Good for birthday parties

Pricing:

1.5-hour pass \$23

2-hour pass \$28

Unlimited pass \$35

Time limits / reservations: Session-based play.

## Museum of Illusions – Charlotte

Location: Charlotte

Best for ages: 4–5+ (parent accompanied)

What they offer: Visual and sensory exhibits focused on optical illusions

This is not a traditional play space, but many preschoolers enjoy the interactive and visual nature of the exhibits. Visits typically last under 90 minutes, making it a good short outing.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Short visit length
- Highly visual experience
- Works best with adult guidance

Pricing: Starts at \$33 per person. Family pass available. Children under 5 are free.

Time limits / reservations: Timed entry.

## Main Street Children's Museum

Location: Rock Hill, SC

Best for ages: 0–5+

What they offer: Immersive children's museum with hands-on exhibits

Main Street Children's Museum is a great day-trip option with exhibits designed specifically for young kids. There is dedicated stroller parking and thoughtful touches like nursing benches near family restrooms.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Stroller parking available
- Nursing-friendly spaces
- Easy half-day outing

Pricing: \$10 per person. Children under 1 are free.

Time limits / reservations: General admission during open hours.

## Museum of York County

Location: Rock Hill, SC

Best for ages: 0–5+

What they offer: Natural history exhibits, planetarium shows, and interactive learning

The Museum of York County is a quieter alternative to larger museums and is especially loved for its life-sized animal displays and planetarium. It's a solid option for a close day trip with educational value.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Less crowded than larger museums
- Kids love the animal displays
- Easy pairing with other Rock Hill activities

Pricing:

Adults \$12

Seniors \$10

Children 4+ \$8

Children under 4 free

Time limits / reservations: Open during posted hours; planetarium shows scheduled.

## The Grove

Location: Charlotte (Myers Park)

Best for ages: 0-7 (and parents, caregivers)

What they offer: Membership club with play spaces, supervised programming, activities for young kids, cafe, parent spaces, classes, and community events

The Grove isn't a drop-in play cafe or museum; it's a membership family club built for kids and designed for adults. Membership gives families access to spacious indoor play areas and thoughtfully curated programming that runs the gamut from sensory play and crafts to social events and seasonal activities, plus a full-service cafe with high-quality food and beverages. There's also a focus on community, with parenting workshops, social gatherings, and spaces where caregivers can work, relax, and connect while kids engage in guided or open play.

Parent-friendly notes:

- Membership includes access to open play and scheduled activities like sensory Saturdays and group storytimes
- The space feels calm and well-designed with parents in mind, including café seating and independent play areas
- Offers community-building events for families and opportunities to meet other parents
- Some programming lets parents enjoy the space while kids are engaged under supervision
- Although not a traditional free play drop-in (membership required), many families find the programming and atmosphere worth it for regular use and connection with other parents

Pricing: Membership requires a one-time joining fee and monthly dues, with tiers based on family size and goals - expect several thousand dollars upfront plus monthly dues

Time limits / reservations: Membership access is open during normal hours, with special events and classes scheduled regularly. Tours and visits are typically arranged through membership inquiry rather than walk-in.