

# Open Adoption Visit Ideas in Buffalo

Adoption STAR is a not-for-profit adoption agency in New York, Ohio and Florida. The agency firmly believes that post adoption contact (open adoption), when appropriate, is what's best for all parties involved, especially the children.

Open adoption visits between adoptive families and birth families should be a time to celebrate the adoption journey and create relationships. These visits can be as simple as a picnic in the park or going swimming at a local pool, to theme parks and adventures. Below you will find an extensive list of open adoption visit ideas that have been suggested by Adoption STAR clients and staff members in the Buffalo area.

This list can be updated regularly, so if you have any suggestions that you do not see on the list, please email [michael@adoptionstar.com](mailto:michael@adoptionstar.com) with the subject "Open Adoption Visit Project" and we will work to add your idea.

## Outdoor Activities

- Erie Canal Cruise – Lockport
  - o Sightseeing cruise that shows off history of Erie canal
  - o Phone: (315)717-0350
  - o Location: 800 Mohawk St. Herimer, NY
  - o Website: [www.eriecanalcruises.com](http://www.eriecanalcruises.com)
- Maid of the Mist
  - o Boat ride through Niagara Falls
  - o Phone: (716)248-8897
  - o Location: (US shipping address)151 Buffalo Avenue. Niagara Falls, NY 14303
  - o Website: [www.maidofthemist.com](http://www.maidofthemist.com)
- Go down to the river in Tonawanda for ice cream (Old Man River)
- Participate in the Ronald McDonald House 5k run and Fisher Price Place Space
  - o There is a 1k walk for children usually and the play space is set up next door at Canisius and always looks like lots of fun (MM)
  - o Race takes place Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 pm
  - o Contact Maureen Wopperer for more info: (716)883-1177
- Sledding at Chestnut Ridge
  - o Phone: (716)662-3290
  - o Location: 6121 Chestnut Ridge Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127
- Feed the ducks at Glen Falls/Ellicott Creek
- Sweet Jenny's
  - o Ice cream and desert shop
  - o Phone: 631-2424
  - o Location: 5732 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14221

- Town of Amherst Pool/Clearfield Splash Park
- Ice skating downtown at Fountain Plaza
  - o Outdoor ice rink, open through February 24
  - o Phone: (716)856-3150
  - o Website: [www.buffaloplace.com/rotary-rink-fountain-plaza](http://www.buffaloplace.com/rotary-rink-fountain-plaza)
- Botanical Gardens
  - o Phone: (716)827-1584
  - o Location: 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14218
- Website: <http://www.buffalogardens.com>
- Old Fort Niagara
  - o Right on the Niagara River, For Niagara played important roles in the battles between France, Great Britain and the US in their quests to control the Great Lakes. Is a Historic landmark. Great place to visit, and has several events each month.
  - o Phone: (716)745-7611
  - o Website: <http://www.oldfortniagara.org>
- Buffalo Zoo
  - o Phone: (716)837-3900
  - o Location: 300 Parkside Ave. Buffalo, NY 14214
  - o Website: <http://www.buffalozoo.org>
- Shakespeare in the Park
  - o Outdoor performances of famous Shakespeare plays in Delaware Park
  - o Phone: (716)856-4533
  - o Location: Delaware Park, Buffalo
  - o Website: [www.shakespeareindelawarepark.org](http://www.shakespeareindelawarepark.org)
- Erie Basin Marina
  - o Phone: (716)851-6501
  - o Location: 329 Erie St. Buffalo, NY, 14202
  - o Website: <http://www.eriebasinmarina.org>
- LaSalle Park
  - o Has "Off leash Dog Park"
  - o Location: 101 Dart St. Buffalo, NY 14213
  - o Website: <http://www.thebarkyard.org>
- Martin Luther King Park
  - o Intersection of Best Street and Fillmore Avenue in downtown Buffalo
- Shopping on Elmwood Strip and Allentown strip
- Free movie nights on lawn at UB North and South campuses in summer
- Glenn Falls
  - o Great place for hiking and picturesque ponds and landscaping
  - o Location: Village of Williamsville
  - o Website: <http://www.nyfalls.com/glenfalls>
- Old Home Day
  - o Tuesday, July 12 – Saturday, July 16
  - o Family fun at Williamsville fair.
  - o Location: Main St. Williamsville, NY
  - o Website: [www.oldhomedayrs.org](http://www.oldhomedayrs.org)

## Outdoor Festivals

- Juneteenth Festival
  - A Celebration of Buffalo's Black community with murals, vendors, ethnic foods and wares.
  - Phone: (716)891-8801
  - Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Project
  - Website: <http://www.juneteenthofbuffalo.com>
- The West Side Bazaar
  - Shopping center where entrepreneurs from around the world who are now living in the Buffalo area and local handcrafters can sell their merchandise
  - Phone: (716)464-6389
  - Location: 242 Grant Street (at Lafayette) Buffalo, NY 14213
  - Website: [www.westsidebazaar.com](http://www.westsidebazaar.com)
- Buffalo Winterfest Powderkeg Festival
  - Annual event in February. Lots of winter events taking place in Downtown Buffalo
  - Location: Downtown Buffalo
  - Website: <http://www.buffalowinterfest.com>
- Elmwood Festival of the Arts
  - Saturday August 25-August 26
  - Lots of dancing, theater, food, shopping and other cultural activities
  - Phone: (716)830-2484
  - Location: Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY
  - Website: <http://www.eafa.techriver.net>
- National Buffalo Wing Festival
  - Saturday September 1 – September 2
  - Chicken wing festival, get to taste the best chicken wings in Western New York and beyond.
  - Phone: (716)565-4141
  - Location: Coke-a-Cola Field, Downtown Buffalo
  - Website: <http://www.buffalowing.com>
- National Buffalo Garden Festival
  - Five-week-long garden party: June 22 – July 29
  - with 14 garden walks and tours, including America's largest garden walk tour. Events also include speakers, workshops and competitions.
  - Phone: 1(800)-BUFFALO
  - Location: Throughout Buffalo
  - Website: <http://www.nationalgardenfestival.com>
- Taste of Buffalo
  - Saturday July 7 – July 8
  - Opportunity to taste some of the best food Buffalo has to offer.
  - Location: Delaware Avenue and Niagara Square, Buffalo NY
  - Website: <http://www.tasteofbuffalo.com>
- Lewiston Art Festival
  - Saturday, August 11 – August 12

- Festival includes musical concerts, art shows, and history
  - Phone: (716)754-0166
  - Location: Lewiston, NY
  - Website: <http://www.artcouncil.org/events/artfestival>
- Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival
  - Friday August 24 – August 25
  - Free jazz festival with several prominent and up-and-coming Jazz artists
  - Location: Lewiston, NY
  - Website: <http://www.lewistoonjazz.com>
- Carly's Crossing
  - Sunday, August 12
  - A fundraising swimming challenge, with different competitive and experience levels. Proceeds to Carly's Club (Cancer Research)
  - Phone: Robin Hace – (716)845-4100
  - Location: Gallagher Beach – Buffalo Waterfront
  - Website: <http://www.giving.roswellpark.org/page.aspx?pid=382>
- Taste of Ellicottville
  - Saturday, August 11 – August 12
  - Food festival of 22 of the best restaurants in Ellicottville
  - Location: Ellicottville, NY
  - Website: <http://www.ellicottvilleny.com/taste-of-ellicottville/>
- Eden Corn Fest
  - Thursday, August 4 – August 7
  - Similar to a county fair with food vendors, live music, rides, arts and craft shows, auto shows and more.
  - Location: Eden, NY
  - Website: <http://www.edencornfest.com>
- Kingdom Bound Christian Music Fest.
  - Sunday, August 5 – August 8
  - Four day Christian music festival
  - Phone: (716)633-1117
  - Location: Darien Lake Theme Park, Darien, NY
  - Website: <http://www.kingdombound.org>
- Buffalo Greek Festival
  - Friday, June 1 – June 3
  - Greek Cuisine, live Greek music, Greek folk dancing, cultural exhibits, and more.
  - Phone: (716)882-9485
  - Location: Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation (146 West Utica St. Buffalo, NY 14222)
  - Website: <http://www.buffalogreekfest.org>
- Polish Heritage Fest.
  - Friday June 8 – June 9
  - Celebrating Polish culture and traditions
  - Phone: (716)998-2501

- Location: Hamburg Fairgrounds (5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, NY)
- Website: [www.polunfest.com](http://www.polunfest.com)
- Buffalo River Fest
  - Friday, June 15 – June 17
  - Fun for whole family with live music, waterfront activities, and guided historic tours around waterfront.
  - Phone: (716)823-4707
  - Location: Buffalo River Fest Park (Ohio St, near First Niagara Arena)
  - Website: [http://www.thevalleycenter.com/buffalo\\_riverfest](http://www.thevalleycenter.com/buffalo_riverfest)
- Gus Macker Basketball Tournament
  - Saturday, June 2 – June 3
  - 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Great family event to watch some of the best basketball in Buffalo.
  - Location: Downtown Buffalo
  - Website: <http://www.macker.com>
- Friendship Festival
  - Friday, June 29 – Monday, July 2
  - Festival promotes the friendly relationship between America and Canada since the end of the War of 1812
    - Activities include concerts and family fun
  - Location: Mather Arch Park, Fort Erie, Canada
  - Website: <http://www.friendshipfestival.com>
- Sorrento Cheese Italian Food and Heritage Fest
  - Thursday, July 12 – Sunday, July 15
  - Second largest Italian “Street Festival” in the US, with lots of Buffalo’s best Italian restaurants.
  - Phone: (716)512-1878
  - Location: Hertel Avenue, Buffalo.
  - Website: <http://www.buffaloitalianfestival.com>
- Genesee County Fair
  - Monday, August 12 – Sunday, August 19
  - Website: <http://www.gcf.org>
- Erie County Fair
  - Wednesday, August 8 – Sunday, August 19
  - Phone: (716)649-3900
  - Location: Hamburg Fair Grounds, Hamburg, NY
  - Website: <http://www.ecfair.org>
- Canal Fest
  - Tuesday, July 17 – July 24
  - Phone: (716)692-3292
  - Location: North Tonawanda, NY
  - Website: [www.canalfest.org](http://www.canalfest.org)

## **Museum**

- Butterfly Conservatory
  - World’s largest glass enclosed butterfly conservatory.

- Phone: (877)642-7275
- Location: 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, ON. L2E 6T2
- Website: <http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/listings/index.cfm?action=display&listingID=5347&menuID=179&hit=1>
- Teddy Roosevelt Inaugural Site (has various educational activities for children starting at 4 +)
  - Site where Teddy Roosevelt was inducted as President of the United States. Site offers lectures, a public speaking contest, Annual picnic, and more.
  - Phone: (716)884-0095
  - Location: 641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14202
  - Website: [www.nps.gov/thri/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/thri/index.htm)
- Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
  - Opens April 3. Has two historic carousels in operation. Museum has 20 hand crafted carousel animals that display different styles of carrousel animals. Has photo exhibit that shows the production process of creating a carrousel.
  - Phone: (716)693-1885
  - Location: 180 Thompson Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
  - Website: <http://www.carrouselmuseum.org>
- Aquarium of Niagara
  - Watch exciting activities such as Penguin feedings, Sea Lion training sessions, seal shows, and shark feedings
  - Phone: (716)285-3575
  - Location: 701 Whirlpool St. Niagara Falls, NY 14301
  - Website: <http://www.aquariumofniagara.org>
- Explore and More Children's Museum in E. Aurora
  - Western New York's only museum designed just for kids
  - Phone: (716)655-5131
  - Location: 300 Gleed Ave. East Aurora, NY 14052
  - Website: [www.exploreandmore.org](http://www.exploreandmore.org)
- Albright Knox Art Gallery
  - A collection of modern and contemporary art
  - Phone number: (716)882-8700
  - Location: 1285 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo NY 14222
  - Website: [www.albrightknox.org](http://www.albrightknox.org)
- Penny Art Gallery (Buffalo State College)
  - Only museum dedicated to the art artists of Western New York
  - Phone: (716)878-6011
  - Address: 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo NY
  - Website: [www.burchfieldpenney.org](http://www.burchfieldpenney.org)
- Buffalo Museum of Science –
  - Their "Explorations" room is designed for little ones, so kids 0-5 have a blast in this place...There's a water table, a faux space shuttle

cockpit, puppets, toys, costumes for the kids to dress up in, etc. (MH)  
(ZF)

- Phone: (716)896-5200
- Location: 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo NY 14211
- Website: <http://www.sciencebuff.org>

### **Recreation Centers:**

- Kenan Center - Lockport
  - Activities at Kenan Center promote cultural, educational and recreational programs in community
  - Phone: (716)433-2617
  - Location: 433 Locust St. Lockport, NY 14094
  - Website: <http://www.kenancenter.org>
- Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo
  - The downtown location has an indoor playground that's free for members (although non-members can pay to gain access if they come as guests of members) ( MH)
  - Phone
    - Amherst: (716)688-4033
    - Downtown: (716)866-3145
  - Location
    - Amherst 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville NY
    - Downtown: 787 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY
  - Website: <http://www.jccbuffalo.org>
- Town of Amherst's Youth and Recreation Board – The Family Room
  - With locations on Harlem Road in Amherst and the Northtown Automotive Center (formerly the Pepsi Center), young families can go during open house hours and make use of the amazing pre-school-like rooms they have. These rooms are full of toys, books, play-dough, easels and paint, etc.), as well as rooms for physical activity (big wheels, cushy mats to jump on and off of, soft balls to play with, etc.) Fees involved for any interested parties; slightly cheaper fees if you reside in the Town of Amherst, although non-Amherst residents can join for a slightly higher fee. There are also structured play groups for specific age ranges that meet on specific dates and times (for a higher fee.) This is NOT a babysitting facility: all children must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times. (MH)
  - Phone:
    - Northtown Center: (716)631-7298
    - Harlem Road: (716)631-7218
  - Location
    - Northtown Center: 1615 Amherst Manor Dr. Amherst, NY 14221
    - Harlem Rd: 4255 Harlem Rd. Amherst, NY 14226
- Boulevard Mall – Northtown Automotive Kids Play Area –

- A free, carpeted play space with soft benches for parents and kids. On the carpeted area near the benches, little ones will find rubberized, soft things to climb and play on, like a “stone” bridge, cars, and a truck (that doubles as a slide.) It’s located in the food court right next to the carousel (another kid favorite, although carousel is not free.) (MH)
- Phone: (716)834-8600
- Location: 730 Alberta Dr. Amherst, NY 14226
- Website: <http://www.boulevard-mall.com>

## Active

- Bounce Magic
  - Great place for kids of all ages to play on inflatable rides and play arcade games
  - Phone:
    - Orchard Park: (716)677-5867
    - Amherst: (716)834-5867
  - Location:
    - Orchard Park: 2881 southwestern Blvd. Orchard Park, NY 14127
    - Amherst: 1261 Niagara Falls Blvd. Amherst, NY 14226
  - Website: [www.bouncemagic.com](http://www.bouncemagic.com)
- Adventure Landing (outdoor)
  - Mini Golf and arcade games
  - Phone: (716)832-3476
  - Location: 2400 Sheridan Dr. Tonawanda, NY 14150
  - Website: <http://www.adventurelanding.com>
- Chuck E. Cheese’s (MH)
  - Phone:
    - Amherst: (716) 839-3543
    - Blasdell: (716)822-2221
  - Location
    - Amhest: 4994 Harlem Rd, Amherst NY
    - Blasdell: 4408 Milestrip Rd. #1
  - Website: <http://www.Chuckecheese.com>
- Dave and Buster’s (MH) (ZF)
  - Dave and Busters has many arcade games and is perfect for children of any age
  - Phone: (716)932-2515
  - Location: 4545 Transit Rd. Williamsville, NY 14221
  - Website: <http://www.daveandbusters.com>
- Lasertron
  - Laser tag, arcade games and Go-Kart
  - Phone: (716)833-8766
  - Location: 5101 North Bailey Avenue, Amherst NY 14226
  - Website: <http://www.lasertron.us>

## Theme Parks

- Martin’s Fantasy Island



- Theme Park
- Phone: (716)773-7591
- Location: Grand Island NY
- Website: [www.martinsfantasyisland.com](http://www.martinsfantasyisland.com)
- Darien Lake
  - Theme park
  - Phone: (585)599-4641
  - 993 Allegheny Rd. Darien Center, NY 14040
  - Website: [www.godarienlake.com](http://www.godarienlake.com)
- Attica/Arcade Polar Express Train Ride
  - First three weekends of December s
  - Santa is on train, kids get to drink hot chocolate while Santa reads the Polar Express and kids wear pajamas, sing Christmas Carols and drop letters to Santa at the North Pole
  - Phone: (585)492-3100
  - Location: 278 Main St. Arcade, NY 14009
  - Website: [www.arcadeandatticarr.com](http://www.arcadeandatticarr.com)

## **Crafts**

- The Bead Gallery
  - Has lots of great bead options and will guide you through your project
  - Phone: (716)836-6775
  - Location: 2050 Eggert Road Amherst, NY 14226
  - Website: <http://www.beadgallery.com>
- Clay Hands Pottery
  - Work with ceramics, clay or glass
  - Phone: (716)759-1208
  - Location: 10086 Main St. Clarence, NY 14031
  - Website: [www.clayhandspottery.com](http://www.clayhandspottery.com)