

# **New York City Department of Correction Annual Child Visitor Program Report Calendar Year 2025**

*Pursuant to Local Law 40 of 2025, the Department is required to provide an annual report regarding its program for child visitors for the previous calendar year.*

## **Section One: Child Visitor Programs & Initiatives**

Keeping family bonds alive while someone is incarcerated matters, and the New York City Department of Correction (DOC or the Department) knows firsthand that visits are a cornerstone to maintaining these important connections. This is why the Department has developed and implemented a number of robust, nationally recognized programs to support these goals, in consultation with non-profit organizations and other City partners. DOC is committed to continuing to build on these programs, and to improving the visit experience for children and their families.

### **Visit Facilitators**

The Department has a dedicated position—Visit Facilitators—to help create family- and child-friendly environments in visiting areas. Visit Facilitators are currently working in the visiting areas at Otis Bantum Correctional Center (OBCC), Rober N. Davoren Complex (RNDC), Rose M. Singer Center (RMSC), and Benjamin Ward Center (i.e., Central Visits). Visit Facilitators welcome families, provide toys, books, crayons, coloring books, and arts-and-craft activities for children, disinfect and clean all toys and visit spaces, and help incarcerated mothers and fathers bond with their children through activities such as coloring, making cards, reading books, and playing with toys. Visit Facilitators help maintain the visitation areas by sanitizing before and after visits finish at the end of day.

### **Child Friendly Visit Areas**

RMSC has long had a child visitation space, specially designed and outfitted for parents to engage with young children, which has been renovated over the years as programming for child visitors has expanded and strengthened. In 2023, the Department partnered with the Children’s Museum of Manhattan (CMOM) to install interactive exhibits in visiting areas with the goal of creating meaningful opportunities for incarcerated parents to play and bond with their children during visits on Rikers Island. Visit Facilitators oversee child-friendly visit spaces and provide for an accommodating space for children and families to connect. As of December 2025, CMOM hubs have been installed at RMSC, the George R. Vierno Center (GRVC), OBCC, and Benjamin Ward Center, with plans to expand the program to RNDC in the Summer of 2026. The city jails that do not include specially designed areas are Eric M. Taylor Center (EMTC), North Infirmary Center (NIC), West Facility (WF), Rose M. Singer Enhanced Supervised Housing (RESH). Detailed information about each child friendly visit space can be found below.

RMSC	<p>CMOM hubs – NYC sounds exhibit, Sound Station, Sensory Train, Giraffe Height Chart</p> <p>Infrastrucure – bookshelf and children’s books, children’s table and chairs, benches, doodle/white board, wall decorations, activity cube for toddlers, children’s play mat</p> <p>Toys – Toy kitchen, manipulatives, toy trucks, play phone, magnet tiles, coloring books and crayons</p> <p>Misc – Holiday decorations, sanitizing spray/wipes</p>
OBCC	<p>CMOM hubs – NYC sounds exhibit, Sound Station, Sensory Train, Giraffe Height Chart</p> <p>Infrastrucure – bookshelf and children’s books, children’s table and chairs, benches, doodle/white board, wall decorations, activity cube for toddlers, children’s play mat</p> <p>Toys – Toy kitchen, manipulatives, toy trucks, play phone, magnet tiles, coloring books and crayons</p> <p>Misc – Holiday decorations, sanitizing spray/wipes</p>
GRVC	<p>CMOM hubs – NYC sounds exhibit, Sound Station, Sensory Train, Giraffe Height Chart</p> <p>Infrastrucure – bookshelf and children’s books, children’s table and chairs, benches, doodle/white board, wall decorations, activity cube for toddlers, children’s play mat</p> <p>Toys – Toy kitchen</p>
RNDC	<p>Infrastrucure – bookshelf and children’s books, children’s table and chairs, benches, doodle/white board, wall decorations, activity cube for toddlers, children’s play mat</p> <p>Toys – Toy kitchen, manipulatives, toy trucks, play phone, magnet tiles, coloring books and crayons</p> <p>Misc – Holiday decorations, sanitizing spray/wipes</p>
Central Visits	<p>CMOM hubs – NYC sounds exhibit, Sound Station, Sensory Train, Giraffe Height Chart</p> <p>Infrastrucure – bookshelf and children’s books, children’s table and chairs, benches, doodle/white board, wall decorations, activity cube for toddlers, children’s play mat</p> <p>Toys – Toy kitchen, manipulatives, toy trucks, play phone, magnet tiles, coloring books and crayons</p> <p>Misc – Holiday decorations, sanitizing spray/wipes</p>

### Off-Island Museum Visit

The Department began their partnership with CMOM in 2018, to establish off-site visits for women in custody and their children in the museum. This program provides incarcerated parents with young children an opportunity to connect with their families through facilitated programming in a supportive, non-institutional environment. The program was paused during the

COVID-19 pandemic; in October 2022, the Department resumed its partnership with CMOM, and expanded the program to include fathers. In 2025, the Department established monthly off-site visits to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, similar to the CMOM program, allowing the Department to offer museum visits to more incarcerated fathers and mothers.

**Partnerships**

The Department is proud of its longstanding partnership with the Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”) through the Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (“CHIPP”). This is a unique and deeply meaningful offering designed specifically for children in the child welfare system who have a parent incarcerated in our facilities. CHIPP visits take place on non-visit days, which allows for a quieter and more supportive environment for these children. Holding these visits outside the hustle of regular visit operations ensures that young people who are navigating the child welfare system and other significant challenges are able to connect with their parent in a space that feels calm, supervised, and centered on their emotional needs.

In addition, the Department partners with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Osborne Association, and Hour Children to offer the Visiting and Family Assistance Program. This program supports incarcerated parents at RMSC before, during, and after visits and assists caregivers in maintaining strong bonds between incarcerated parents and their children. The Visitation And Family Assistance (VAFA) program often provides transportation to caregivers and their families to visit their loved ones in RMSC.

**Section Two: Child Visit Data**

<b>In-Person Child Visitors, by Facility</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of Child Visitors</b>
EMTC	1,741
RNDC	2,132
RMSC	488
RESH	841
GRVC	1,221
NIC	316
WF	1,512
OBCC	2,463
BHPW	28
EHPW	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,742</b>

In-Person Child Visitors in Specially Designed Visiting Areas, by Facility	
Facility	Number of Child Visitors
RNDC	2,132
RMSC	488
GRVC	1,221
OBCC	2,463
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,304</b>

In-Person Child Visitor Wait Times, by Facility	
Facility	Average Wait Times (minutes)
EMTC	133.01
RNDC	164.28
RMSC	64.43
RESH	152.86
RESH ANNEX	250.48
GRVC	145.95
NIC	56.84
WF	148.42
OBCC	110.4
BHPW	N/A
EHPW	N/A
<b>Total Average</b>	<b>136.30</b>

### Section Three: Visits Training

The Department trains officers to support safe and timely visits for all visitors with practices grounded in respect, consistency, and communication. Through the course *Strengthening Interactions with Visiting Children*, uniformed and non-uniformed staff are instructed on how to promote positive visits for children, seeing the visit process from a child’s perspective, skills for interacting with children, and practice in applying skills. This training focuses on various topics to minimize stress for child visitors, including information about child development, how to effectively communicate with children of all ages, and how to apply the training to real life situations involving children.

As of December 2025, all staff members identified as having frequent interactions with visitors have completed the *Strengthening Interactions with Children* course. A total of 214 staff, both uniformed and non-uniformed, have been trained.

