

KEEPING ARTIST PARENTS IN THE LOOP



SAY HELLO

If a parent comes into your gallery space – say hello! It might seem obvious, but a smile goes a long way for someone who feels out of place and has made a lot of effort to be there.



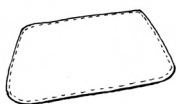
BABY FEEDING WELCOME

Display a “Baby Feeding Welcome Here” sign in your space near the entrance – and make seating available. This could be as simple as offering a chair in the office or behind the invigilators desk.



BIN

Have a rubbish bin visible in the space that parents can use to dispose of wipes, food wrappers, nappies and other baby-rubbish. This benefits you and them!



CHANGE MAT

Keep a cheap foam change mat in the office to offer to parents with babies – many artist parents have resorted to changing their kids nappies on toilet floors, and a change mat is a simple and cheap way to make life a bit less gross for them and their kids.



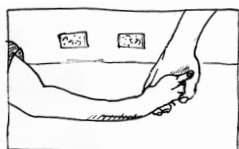
SNACKS

At openings, provide a non-alcoholic drink and a plate of snacks to keep kids occupied. Children's mealtime generally overlaps with opening times, so parents often have to stave off hungry children to try and attend.



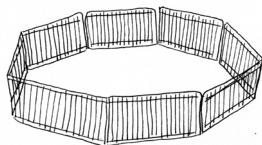
ACTIVITIES

Keep a corner of the gallery as an activity station for kids – a table with some pencils /paper/colouring sheets. If you have the time and resource, you could make activity sheets tailored to the shows in your gallery for older kids. Anything that engages kids while they're in the space, will help their parents see your shows!



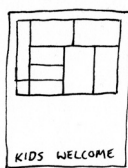
PROGRAMMING

Try to schedule a monthly event that is parent and child-friendly. This might be having a daytime opening or talk on a weekend during the day, or running the opening later than usual (to avoid clashes with kids meal/bedtime). Have one child friendly morning session of each show in your program (little kids nap in the afternoon), and ensure it's promoted. Think bigger: in your next funding round, budget onsite childcare, pizza and a DVD for a special evening event so people can bring kids. It may not be possible for all galleries, but it can be done, and will be appreciated!



INSTALL

Start budgeting to offer exhibiting artists financial support for childcare during install – childcare generally costs \$100-\$150 per day. Be aware that most artist parents are paying this themselves on top of everything else during installs, or leaning on friends, family and others to appear unencumbered.



OUTREACH

Actively seek out artists who have recently had children – encourage and support them to keep applying for opportunities, curate them into shows, don't assume they are not interested or not working anymore.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Talk to artists about their kids- ask about the extra challenges and obstacles they face. Even if you don't have the resources to assist them, let them know you understand those challenges exist for them.

You may assume that your space is child and parent friendly because you don't actively discriminate against them, but there are many passive, baked-in ways the art world discriminates against artist parents, and mothers in particular. If in doubt, be proactive! Your care and acknowledgement will never go unappreciated.

artistparentsurvey.wixsite.com/artistparents