



The Play Times

Tip Sheet + Resources

Playtime staff and trained volunteers protect your children's rights to learn and play by partnering with shelters, schools, and other organizations across the Washington, D.C., region. We create bright, safe spaces with fun activities for children and give parents a break. Play reduces stress, increases confidence and resiliency, and contributes to healthy brain development.



Get Your Full Child Tax Credit

The Child Tax Credit is a tax benefit to help families who are raising children. Last year the money was increased, and half of the total was sent to families early, in monthly payments. Payments were up to \$300 per child under age 6 and \$250 per child age 6 to 17. These payments stopped at the beginning of 2022, and the second half of the money will be included in your tax refund this year.

There are a few things to know to get the rest of your child tax credit.

If you got the monthly payments last year you should have also been sent a letter from the IRS titled "2021 Total Advance Child Tax Credit (AdvCTC) Payments." This letter is also labelled "Letter 6419" on the bottom right of the page. The letter contains information about how much of the Child Tax Credit you got and how much you should be getting this year with your tax refund. You can also see this information by checking your online account on IRS.gov.

If you did not get the Child Tax Credit monthly payments last year you can still get the full amount by filing your tax return this year!

If you would like help doing your taxes this year, be sure to check out Community Tax Aid, Inc., a local organization that provides free tax preparation services in the Washington, DC, area. They have both drop off/pick up and virtual meeting options available from February to April each year. In order to use the virtual option, you must have an email address, photo ID, a copy of your

social security card, social security statement or an ITIN letter, and have an annual income less than \$58,000. To do the drop off/pick up option, you will get an appointment to come in and have copies of your documents made, and a second appointment is made to pick up the completed tax return. To use the drop off/pick up option you must have photo ID, a copy of your social security card, social security statement or an ITIN letter, and have an annual income less than \$57,000.

Appointments start in February. If you want to be placed on the list to be called when appointments start, call 202-830-1480 or send an email to appointments@communitytaxaiddc.org. You can also sign up on their website <https://communitytaxaiddc.org/>.

You can also check your child tax credit online at:

<https://bit.ly/34oNLs3> **OR** <https://bit.ly/34mWtXO>

DCPS Lottery

The application deadline for the DC School Lottery is coming up soon! March 1, 2022, is the deadline for grades PreK3 - 8.

Results will then be shared on April 1. You can apply online for your child, as well as learn more about your in-boundary school options at <https://www.myschooldc.org/>.

Black History Month Themed Movies and Events

Here is a list of some movies that highlight Black stories, voices, and talents, for you and your family to watch while celebrating Black History Month this year.

- **On Tubi TV, free streaming service**

- o Tyler Perry's *Madea's Tough Love* (Age: 9+)
- o *The Color Purple* (Age:13+)
- o *For the Love of Ruth* (Age:13 +)
- o *Martin Luther King Jr.: One Man and His Dream* (Age:13+)

- **On Kanopy.com, a streaming service free with a library card**

- o *Garrett's Gift* (Age: 4+)
- o *The Journey of Henry Box Brown* (Age: 5+)
- o *Dancing in the Light: The Janet Collins Story* (Age: 5+)
- o *I am Not Your Negro* (Age: 13+)

- **On Prime Video for Rent or Purchase**

- o *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World* (Age: 4+)
- o *Ruby Bridges* (Age: 10+)
- o *A Ballerina's Tale* (Age: 9+)
- o *Hidden Figures* (Age: 10+)
- o *Woodlawn* (Age: 10+)
- o *42: The Jackie Robinson Story* (Age: 11+)
- o *John Lewis: Good Trouble* (Age: 10+)
- o *Betty & Coretta* (Age: 13+)

- o *Malcolm X* (Age: 13+)

- **For Parents: On HBO Max, certain episodes of hit shows like "Insecure," "I May Destroy You," and "The Watchmen" are available for free during Black History Month**

- o <https://bit.ly/3GjyPbF>

Black History Month Kid Friendly Activities

- **Black History Month Trivia**

- o Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
- o February 4 - 28, 2022
- o Ages 13 - 19
- o For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/34mWRVU>

- **Joyful Fridays at NMAAHC**

- o February 4, 11, 18 & 25, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- o A series of virtual children's events celebrating Black History Month
- o Events are held via Zoom and led by NMAAHC Kids educators
- o Register for free at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/upcoming>

- **Young Portrait Explorers**

- o National Portrait Gallery Online
- o February 9, 16, & 23, 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- o A series of virtual children's workshops celebrating Black History Month
- o Register for free at <https://bit.ly/3gmPOix>

Visit Playtime's Parent Site

For more recommended resources and referrals, scan the QR code below.



Museums and Historic Sites to Visit

- **National Museum of African American History and Culture | National Mall**
 - o Open Wednesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **African American Civil War Museum | Shaw, DC**
 - o Open Monday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Frederick Douglass Historic Site | Anacostia, DC**
 - o Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.