



# It's kids' night out



Sophia Mele, 4, chows down on pizza during a child drop-off night at Tumbling Tunes in East Northport, which offers themed parties and craftmaking.

DANIELLE SILVERMAN

How to make date night an adventure for everyone in the family

BY IAN J. STARK  
Special to Newsday

**N**eed a grownups-only night out? These Long Island venues offer designated hours when children can be dropped off for some playtime while their parents go out and play.

The business model is often borne of personal experience. "I know how important it can

be to have a break, which is why we do this," says Kerri Anastasi, owner of Tumbling Tunes in East Northport and mother of children ages 5, 9 and 12. Unlike most drop-off locations, her play space allows kids who have yet to master the potty "as long as parents drop off diapers," Anastasi says.

Matt Kovacik, program director of The Little Gym of Smithtown, hosts two so-called

"Parent Survival Nights" a month. Moms and dads, he says, can have a little extra fun knowing the kids will be "tired enough to go to sleep when you get home."

Now that's something any parent can relate to.

#### MY GYM HUNTINGTON

128 W. Jericho Tpke., Huntington Station

**THE ACTIVITY** Kids can wear various dress-up costumes, while

playing with lifesize board games  
**SUPERVISION** Two to three adults, depending on the number of kids  
**AGES** Over 3 years old; must be potty trained  
**WHEN** Monthly  
**INFO** \$30 for one child, \$15 for each additional sibling; 631-427-4967, mygym.com/huntingtonstation.  
**ALSO TRY**  
**My Gym Stony Brook**  
1320 Stony Brook Rd., 631-751-5437; mygym.com/stonybrook): One night monthly; \$33 for one child, \$18 for

# (parents' too)



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Kylie Findley, 3, of Patchogue walks a balance beam with help from Matt Kovacik at The Little Gym in Smithtown.



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**ON THE COVER**  
Rebecca Chustek, 3, of Smithtown bounces at The Little Gym in Smithtown.

additional siblings (other My Gym locations hold sessions; call for schedules).

**TUMBLING TUNES**  
212 Laurel Rd., East Northport  
**THE ACTIVITY** Events are either themed parties or craft-making nights  
**SUPERVISION** One adult for

every 4 to 6 kids  
**AGES** 2.5 to 8 years of age (bring diapers if needed)  
**WHEN** Every other weekend, sometimes weekly  
**INFO** \$25 one child, \$40 for two, \$55 for three; 631-697-0140, tumblingtunes.com

**THE LITTLE GYM**  
70 E. Main St., Smithtown  
**THE ACTIVITY** Gym play-time followed by organized activities, craftmaking and pizza  
**SUPERVISION** One adult for every 4 to 6 kids  
**AGES** 3 to 10; must be potty trained  
**WHEN** Usually twice a month  
**INFO** \$36 to \$45 for nonmembers, or \$299 for 10 nights in advance; 631-360-7777, nwsdy.li/littlegym

**PLASTERKRAZE**  
1310 Middle Country Rd.,

Selden  
**THE ACTIVITY** Paint pieces, play games, watch a movie and have pizza  
**SUPERVISION** One adult to every seven kids  
**AGES** All ages; must be potty trained  
**WHEN** Every third Friday  
**INFO** \$24 per child; 631-689-5231, plasterkraze.com

**CASA DE SPIN**  
81 Grand Ave., Massapequa  
**THE ACTIVITY** Kids start by making a spin art painting on canvas, take a break for a slice of pizza and a drink, then wrap up with a second spin art-related project.  
**SUPERVISION** One adult per four kids  
**AGES** 6 and older  
**WHEN** Select Friday and Saturday nights during the summer  
**INFO** \$39 per child; 516-654-7746, casadespin.com

**MINI MONET**  
64 Railroad Ave., Sayville  
**THE ACTIVITY** Movie-viewing nights that also include painting on canvas or an art project, plus pizza. Limited to 15 children.  
**SUPERVISION** Two adults  
**AGES** 5 and older  
**WHEN** Monthly  
**INFO** \$35 per child; 631-218-9797, minimonetsayville.com

**ABRAKADOODLE**  
55 Lumber Rd., Roslyn  
**THE ACTIVITY** Themed art lessons with face painting, music, game play plus pizza and a drink  
**SUPERVISION** Four teachers for 24 kids  
**AGES** 3 and up; must be potty trained  
**WHEN** Monthly  
**INFO** \$60 per child; 516-686-6900, abrakadoodle.com



## New camp for LGBTQ+ kids

BY BETH WHITEHOUSE  
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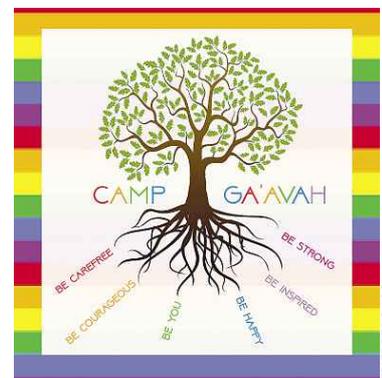
A one-week day camp for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender kids and their supporters or children of LGBTQ+ parents is launching this summer at the Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds in Wheatley Heights.

The pilot program is for kids ages 12 to 18 and will run from Aug. 6 to 10. Camp Ga'avah is run by the Friedberg JCC of Ocean-side, however campers don't have to be Jewish, says Joni Center, executive director of the JCC. Ga'avah is Hebrew for pride.

"It's going to have the traditional activities of a day camp — drama, sports, arts, trips, gaga," Center says. Groups will be split appropriately, and may not be by "boys" and "girls" due to gender fluidity in the LGBTQ+ community. Swimming will be optional, Center says. "It's a traditional day camp built on a new model."

The UJA-Federation of New York gave the JCC a \$40,000 grant to launch the camp. "We're hoping very much that it's successful and we can bring it to our other campgrounds as well," says Hana Gruenberg, managing director of Jewish Life at UJA. UJA also has camps in Staten Island and Rockland County.

For more, call Stephanie Abrams at 516-634-4164 or visit [friedbergjcc.org/campgaavah](http://friedbergjcc.org/campgaavah).



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