

# BEFORE YOU VISIT...

## For Grown Ups

**A trip to The Hyde Collection is a family friendly experience. However, we understand that visiting a historic house and art museum with children can feel overwhelming even before you leave home. Below are a few tips to keep in mind before visiting. Taking these measures will ensure you have a great time on your family outing to The Hyde Collection.**

## FAQs:

### What happens if my child touches something?

Neither children NOR adults are allowed to touch items in Hyde House. Tell your kids that adults are not allowed to touch either, that way they can learn by example. If a work of art is touched without any damage, a guard, museum staff member, or volunteer may approach you with a reminder not to touch, suggestions, or to ask a few questions.

### How can I keep my children quiet in the Museum?

Don't worry about it. Children are welcome to Hyde House and kids of all ages visit during the year. We encourage children to speak freely in the museum so they will ask questions and share their ideas.

**Is there anything for my younger children to do there?** Yes. You both can go through Hyde House or a special exhibition as well as the interactive family space called *The Artist's Studio* in the Education Wing of the Museum. This space encourages art-making, reading, and dress-up, so plan to stay a while.

### What can my children do while in Hyde House?

They can borrow a "Conversation Kit." These kits are simple tool boxes in red, blue, and yellow and filled with questions, "looking tools", and other items to spark conversation about art. The kits are what you make of them...you can spend a great deal of time talking and engaging with your child or you can use it as a brief activity your child does alone. You can take these boxes into Hyde House and sit on the floor or on a bench to

use them, just make sure you keep track of all the items inside. Simply pick up a kit at the Information Desk or down in *The Artist Studio* play space.

**Can I feed my children while there?** Yes. Through October 18, 2009 The Museum will host a small café. You can purchase food here, and children can enjoy snacks you brought from home. In addition, there are picnic tables out front and a butterfly garden with a fountain out back. Either place is great for a packed lunch.

**What can I bring with me into the Museum?** For the safety of the art and furniture, food, gum, and drink are not allowed in the Museum. In addition, large bags are also not allowed into the galleries and rooms. Items such as diaper bags and back-packs, can be stowed in our Coat Check at the Information Desk. Strollers are permitted, but be aware that some of the rooms in historic Hyde House are smaller and can be challenging to maneuver. You can also check the stroller at the Coat Check if you wish. The exhibition galleries are larger and can handle stroller visits very easily.

### With a stroller and kids in tow, where can I park?

If you have more than one young child or a child in a stroller, you may want to park along Warren Street in front of The Hyde Collection. Have your child exit the car onto the sidewalk curb, away from traffic. Parking on the street will avoid the short staircase that connects the Visitor Parking lot with the Museum grounds. However, if your children can climb stairs with ease, then the Visitor Parking lot is a good place to park.

**What if I have more questions? Please call our Education Department and we will answer your questions: 518-792-1761, ext. 17.**



THE HYDE COLLECTION

The Hyde Collection 161 Warren Street Glens Falls, NY 12866

# BEFORE YOU VISIT...

## For Kids

Today I am going to a Museum.

This is my Museum Checklist. I will check off things I will do today.

When I go the Museum I will:

\_\_ Make sure my grown-ups listen to me.  
I am in charge today.

\_\_ Tell my grown-ups not to touch  
ANYTHING!

\_\_ Make sure my Grown-ups are not  
chewing gum.

\_\_ Tell my grown-ups which art work is my  
favorite.

\_\_ Get a "Conversation Kit" so my grown-  
ups will talk a lot about the art with me.

\_\_ Visit "The Artist's Studio" where I can  
make art to take home.

\_\_ HAVE A GREAT TIME!



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## TALKING ABOUT ART

My grown-ups think that talking about art with me might be hard. Maybe they don't realize I know more about art than they think. To get them up to speed, here are a few things they can do to keep up:

-Don't ask me opinion questions, like "Do you like it?" I'll just say yes or no, and that is not a conversation. I am looking for something deeper.

-Ask me open-ended questions such as "What do you think is going on in this painting?" That will get me to open up.

-Don't ask me why I think what I think. Ask me "What do you see that makes you think that." That way I am always looking!

-Don't tell me what is happening in a work of art. I want to figure it out on my own! Ask me "What evidence do you have to support your ideas?" Maybe I can relate a work of art to my own life.

-Don't tell me my ideas are wrong. I am using my imagination and my own experience to talk about the art. If I say this painting reminds me of a dinosaur I saw at my friend's house, ask me again "What do you see that makes you think that?" I think you might be surprised by how my brain works.

-LET'S LOOK AT ART!