DC/VA Neighborhood Advice from Current Students
for those with Families/Kids

DC Neighborhoods

- DCtots.com lists parent groups in the District (some are listed below) along with activities, libraries, pools, yoga studios, theatres, locally owned children retailers, etc.
- The largest community of parents in the greater Washington region is DC Urban Moms and Dads, a public forum which can be found at http://www.dcurbanmom.com.
- The Moms (and Dads) in the City group provides fun and new activities to do with children in the city http://groups.yahoo.com/group/momsinthecity.
- kidfriendlydc.com is a great resource for families who take advantage of all the city’s great offerings for children. It hosts a list of blogs and websites of things to see and do around DC with children.

Foggy Bottom
- Ross Hall is located here
- <5 minutes to walk or ride a bike

West End
- 0.9 miles
- 17 minute walk or 5 minute bike ride

Dupont Circle
- 1.2 miles
- 22 minute walk or 7 minute bike ride
- Dupont Circle Parents
  - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DupontCircleParents/

Logan Circle
- 2 miles
- 40 minute walk or 15 minute bike ride
- Moms in Logan Circle (MILC)
  - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/momsinlogancircle/

Capitol Hill
- Take metro on orange or blue line (~8 stops, ~15 minutes)
- Moms on The Hill (MOTH)
  - https://www.facebook.com/mothersonthemount/hill

Eastern Market
- Take metro on orange or blue line (~9 stops, ~15 minutes)

Columbia Heights
- Take a bus
- 19 minute bike ride

Adams Morgan
- 2.1 miles
- Take a bus
- 40 minute walk or 13 minute bike ride

Mount Pleasant
- 3.1 miles
- Take a bus
- 19 minute bike ride
Daycare - The popular daycares often have waiting lists so you should start searching early. They are also expensive. This organization can help you find daycares near you: https://www.mychildcaredc.com/. If you call, they can provide nearby daycares.

GWU also offers a Child Development Center for children ages 8 weeks to 5 years. http://www.cclc.com/our-centers/washington/dc/081045/

Preschool, PreK, and up - There are many options for parents of children starting at preschool for 3 year olds and up. The great thing about a public school for kids start at 3, is that it’s paid by the city. An admission is based on a lottery system for charter schools and a ranking system for traditional DC public schools. Unfortunately, you likely won’t find a public preschool if you’re moving in to start school in August, but if you’re still in the city and your child is approaching preschool age, you can consider applying for the DC public charter schools (each school holds a random lottery because they receive more applications than spots available) or submit your rankings for DC Public Schools. Public charter schools are not the same as DC public schools. They are both free for DC residents and both compete for DC students.
- DC Charter Schools: http://www.dcpcsb.org/
- DC Public Schools: http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/

Living in Virginia

If you plan to live in Virginia, you should live close to a metro station; these stations will be on the orange line and take you straight to Foggy Bottom without having to switch trains. The metro stations on this map with a ‘P’ before the station name means there is parking available. http://www.wmata.com/rail/maps/map.cfm? These garages fill up pretty fast, usually by 9am or so and cost close to $5 per day. If you want to find a place within walking distance of a metro stop, I wouldn’t go further than Clarendon to keep commuting to a minimum. Homes with yards can be found within a 15 minute walk from these stops. During rush hour, metro trains do run every 2-5 minutes. During non-rush hour, trains run every 15-20 minutes.

Clarendon [Arlington, VA]
- orange line metro (~4 stops, ~8 minutes)
- Arlington Kids is a resource for families with children and provides childcare/preschool resources
  - http://arlkids.com/about/about-arlington-kids/
- Mothers of North Arlington is a local social and support group for mothers
  - monamoms.org
- Clarendon Mom has a long list of childcare/preschools, hospitals, home builders, etc
  - clarendonmoms.com

Vienna [Fairfax, VA]
- orange line metro (~10 stops, ~25 minutes)
- More of a rural setting, apartments, town houses, and houses within walking distance to the metro. Vienna has a lot of activities for children, parades, concerts on the green (family friendly), small down town to walk around.
- Vienna Moms, Inc. is a local support group for mothers in Vienna; including playgroups, events, clubs, etc.
  - http://www.bigtent.com/groups/vmi