

Play Café Startup Checklist

Use this one-page checklist to track your progress from idea to grand opening. Each step helps you build a safe, welcoming play café that parents and kids will love.

Concept & Vision

- o Define your play café concept and unique style.
- o Decide target age groups (toddlers, preschoolers, or mixed).
- o Identify your value add (coffee, classes, design).

Market Research

- o Analyze local demographics and family density.
- Visit competitors to spot gaps.
- o Talk with parents about their needs.

Finances

- o Estimate startup costs (lease, equipment, staff).
- o Plan revenue streams (entry fees, café, parties, memberships).
- o Draft financial projections and funding plan.

Operations

- Plan daily cleaning and safety routines.
- o Decide staff roles (baristas, attendants, managers).
- o Create policies for allergies and supervision.

Marketing

- o Build a professional website and directory listing.
- Set up social media accounts for parents.
- o Partner with schools and local businesses.

Pre-Opening

- o Install play equipment and café furnishings.
- o Hire and train staff before launch.
- o Host a soft opening and collect feedback.
- o Plan a grand opening event.