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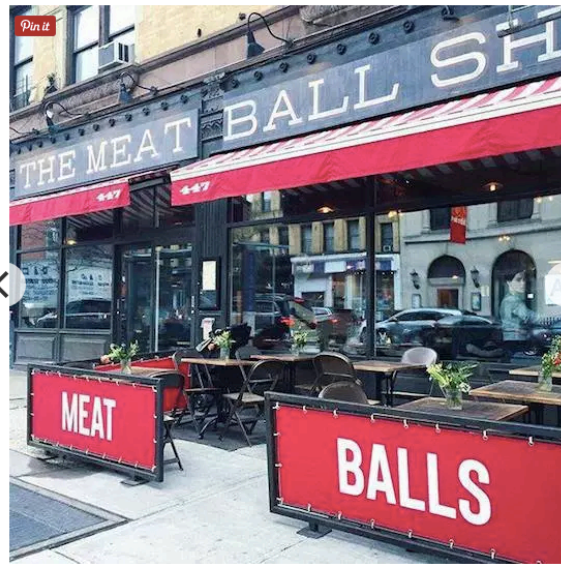
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## Can't Stand the Heat?: Eat Al Fresco at These Kid-Friendly Spots

2016/07/10 | [rtlambethhochwald](#)

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It may be super sticky these days but the hazy, lazy days of summer mean one thing: Back away from the kitchen and head to a super family-friendly restaurant with an outdoor space—deck, porch or garden—that offers the ultimate pairing: Good food for all and a place where the kids are truly welcome. It's a unique combination, and we found more than a dozen spots around town that fit the bill. Click through for our eating *en plein air* recommendations.



### To Indulge in Meatballs like Mama Makes: The Meatball Shop

We dare you to find a kid in your family who won't find a meatball (or sauce) to love at The Meatball Shop, of which there are six locations in town (five in Manhattan; one in Williamsburg): We're talking classic beef, spicy pork, chicken, veggie and sauces from classic tomato and spicy meat to mushroom gravy, parmesan cream and pesto. We visited the Upper West Side location and reveled in sitting in the sidewalk space watching the strollers walk on by as we dove into our Meatball Smash (two balls on a bun with sauce and cheese) and Heroes (three balls on a baguette with sauce and cheese). Sides like freshly milled polenta, white beans and a simple salad are just as satisfying. Best of all: The Baller in Training (Kids) Menu is one of the most creative we've seen. Your kid will get to choose a ball (classic beef, chicken, veggie) sauce (classic tomato, mushroom gravy, parmesan cream) and side (spaghetti, rigatoni, broccoli or mashed potatoes) while scrawling it all down on a whiteboard-like menu. Or kids can opt for a Slider made to order. On the back of the menu: Just the right white space to draw a meatball hero!

The Meatball Shop  
447 Amsterdam (between 81st & 82nd Sts.)  
Upper West Side  
212-422-1752  
Online: [themeatballshop.com](http://themeatballshop.com)