# New childhood learning center accepting bitcoin as payment



Photo by Maria Rocha-Buschel

Explore and Discover Director Jacqueline Marks, President Daniel Koffler and educational director Renee Bock

#### By Maria Rocha-Buschel

New early learning center Explore and Discover on Second Avenue in Kips Bay is on track to open on September 8 and aside from offering educational programming for children as young as three months, the center is unique in another way: bitcoin will be an acceptable form of payment for tuition.

"It's about optionality for parents," said Brian Koffler, chief technology officer for K3 Learning, the parent company for Explore and Discover.

Bitcoin itself is a fairly complicated

"I just gave a two-hour lecture on it to a room full of people in the FBI and I think they walked out saying, 'what just happened?" Koffler joked. "It's tough to explain quickly."

But put in more simple terms, Koffler explained that bitcoin is what's called a cryptocurrency.

"It's a type of money that is created by computer program," he said. "It's a fully decentralized self-controlled money system which has value because people associate value to it."

Bitcoin is a new means of monetary transfer and Koffler said that the people using it would primarily be parents who are working in areas where bitcoin is part of how they get paid or is part of their finances.

"On our end, we view it the same as a check," he said. "It's the same thing to us at the end of the day."

One of the reasons that other businesses accept bitcoin is to prevent fraud because bitcoin has no chargeback, meaning that someone using bitcoin

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# De Blasio blames Bloomberg era zoning change for 'poor doors'

#### **By Sabina Mollot**

Following a shocking decision last week by the city to give a green light to a so-called "poor door," a spokesperson for the mayor has said de Blasio is opposed to the policy that allows poor doors, which was put in place during during the Bloomberg era.

Other elected officials, including

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer have also blasted the use of "poor doors" or separate entrances for residents paying regulated rents in buildings that have mostly luxury units. The concept has since made multiple headlines due to a poor door in a luxury condo tower being built by developer Extell on the Upper West Side.

Extell Development is also leasing property that's slated to become multi-use housing on East 14th Street, across from Stuyvesant Town.

Though various "poor door" stories in the press have called out

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Photo by Sabina Mollot

Extell, a company that's leased space slated to become a multi-use development across from Stuyvesant Town, has included a separate entrance for residents paying regulated rents in an Upper West Side luxury tower.



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What will your child Explore + Discover today?



## MoMath will offer 3D print workshops

The National Museum of Mathematics a.ka. MoMath is kicking off a series of 3D print workshops with a pair of two-hour introductorylevel sessions providing instruction for creating a 3D printed design, as well as the opportunity to print your own 3D model. Attendees will participate in groups of one to three people.

The sessions will introduce participants to interactive 3D modeling software, to sending a design to a 3D printer and to the 3D printing process.

Sessions will be held in September. To register, visit momath.org/about/threedimensions.



Photo by Shayla Mars for Council Member Garodnick

On Monday, Council Member Dan Garodnick attended a pro-Israel rally and also spoke at the event. (Pictured) Garodnick at the rally with Congress Members Eliot Engel and Grace

### Free chair yoga, tango at Stuyvesant Square Park

The Stuyvesant Park neighborhood Association presents the following upcoming events at Stuyvesant Square Park: Chair yoga Tuesdays with Birgit Nagele take place on July 22 and 29 from noon-1 p.m. on the northwest lawn. Tango Sundays with Esmerelda take place from 6-9 p.m. (beginner lessons at 6 p.m.) at the west fountain. For updates, visit spnanyc.org.

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## New childhood learning center

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can't backtrack and claim that it wasn't them who made that charge, although Koffler noted that they aren't as worried about that from the parents that would be their customers.

"From our perspective, it's that it's really simple," he said. "Bitcoin now is like what it was like in the early 80's with a business not taking a credit card. Looking back that sounds like a really silly thing to say. I don't see why we shouldn't accept it. We're a consumer friendly business."

Explore and Discover sets tuition rates on an annual basis from the beginning of the year in September 2014 and tuition is paid on a monthly basis. Monthly tuition rates for full days are



Photo by Maria Rocha-Buschel

Exterior of the new center on Second Avenue, in the process of being built

\$1,399 for two days a week, \$1,990 for three days a week and \$2,791 for five days a week. Half days start at \$874 for two days a week, \$1,243

for three days a week and \$1,744 for five days a week. Mornings are from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and afternoons are from 1 to 6 p.m.