

# Shopping

## Just what the doctor ordered



These five pharmacies go the extra mile to make little ones feel better. By **Shandley McMurray**

If you're anything like us, you've more than once questioned the service at this town's chain drugstores: Will my child's prescription get filled correctly? Why isn't the staff able to answer my queries? We scoured the city to find a better solution—mom-

and-pop drugstores. The pharmacists at these shops conscientiously prepare orders, take product requests, even create yummy flavored potions to help the medicine go down. Plus they help boost community spirit by hosting art exhibits and making each customer feel cared for.

### **Ansonia Pharmacy**

In Greenwich Village, pharmacist Manisha Solanki says she and her husband, Upendar, co-owners of this drugstore, strive to give the same service they'd want for their own family. "We have a personal

relationship with customers," she says. "We'll spend time talking to them about what they need for their children." That caring attitude pervades the shop. The Solankis even donate window space to new artists; on view through January 26 are Lorraine Blaser's abstract acrylics. Her colorful shapes are sure to be a hit with little ones, even when they're not feeling their best. *442 Sixth Ave at 10th St (212-477-0762, ansoniapharmacy.com)*

### **Cherry's Pharmacy**

Toys "R" Us meets Willy Wonka at this UES specialty store that boasts an electric train circling overhead. When dealing with the frazzled parents of sick kids, owner and pharmacist Charles Tabouchirani has a comforting countertop manner. One customer, the mother of a boy with a broken hip, had searched several pharmacies for a recommended pain medication; she finally found it here, along with a dose of much-needed reassurance. In addition, Cherry's carries kids' vitamins like the gummy line by Lil Critters, and natural skin-care products by California Baby. *207 E 66th St at Third Ave (212-717-7797)*

### **Kids Rx**

A dad of two, owner and pharmacist William Brownstein knows how to cater to kids. His cheerful store is filled with details to engage young customers, from the free stickers and lollipops to the murals and electric train (what is it with pharmacists and model trains?). An open box of tissues allows parents to mop up runny noses and replenish their stash. Brownstein is a medical-culinary magician, turning nasty-tasting, hard-to-swallow remedies into transdermal gels, sweet lozenges or gummy bears. "If it's pharmacologically possible, we'll make it," he says. The shop also

delivers for free anywhere in Manhattan. *523 Hudson St between Charles and W 10th Sts (212-741-7111, kidsrx.com)*

### **Northside Pharmacy**

Co-owner Rachel Parker understands what it's like to be a parent with a sick child. The mother of two, and her business partner, Halina Jankowski, will order a brand of diapers or formula just for you, transform icky medicine with strawberry and cherry flavors, and dispense advice on treating little Johnny's cold. The two women, who are also pharmacists, specialize in homeopathic remedies and organic products for the whole family. Choose from brands like Hyland's and Humphreys for aches and pains, and MotherLove and Dr. Hauschka for soft skin and hair. *182 Bedford Ave at North 7th St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-387-6566, northsidepharmacy.net)*

### **Suba Pharmacy**

First, the aisles are wide enough to fit a stroller. Second, the pharmacists remember your name after meeting you once. Third, staffers rush to hold the door open while you haul your children and packages back outside. And the store also covers the basics: quick turnaround on prescriptions, delivery service (for a \$2 fee) and necessities such as medicine droppers. This small pharmacy is so good, in fact, that locals have refused to live without it. When the shop was told to vacate in 2004, nearly 4,000 neighbors of owner and pharmacist Bashir Suba signed a petition and demonstrated outside to keep him in business. Luckily, it worked. *2721 Broadway at 104th St (212-866-6700)*

Check out more family-friendly pharmacies at [timeoutkids.com](http://timeoutkids.com)