

Our Field Trip to The Children's Museum of Indianapolis



Revised 10.7.2026

We are going to **The Children's Museum of Indianapolis** on a **field trip**. We will visit with our classmates, teachers, and other adult helpers who are called **chaperones**.



Our teacher has a **schedule** and **plan** for our school's field trip that may include programs, exhibits, lunch, and more. We have scheduled a time to arrive and a time to leave.



When we arrive at the museum, we will get off the bus and enter the **Sack Lunch Area**. There may be other school groups here, preparing for their field trips, too. If we brought our lunches, museum staff will show us where to put them until lunchtime.



Our group will wait while our teacher checks in with the museum staff. We might split up into smaller groups for exploring the museum. We will always be with an adult, called a **chaperone**. Our teacher will give us instructions and information. There are restrooms and water fountains in the Sack Lunch Area and on every floor of the museum.



When our group is ready, we will enter the museum with our **chaperones**.

We always need to be with an adult from our group.



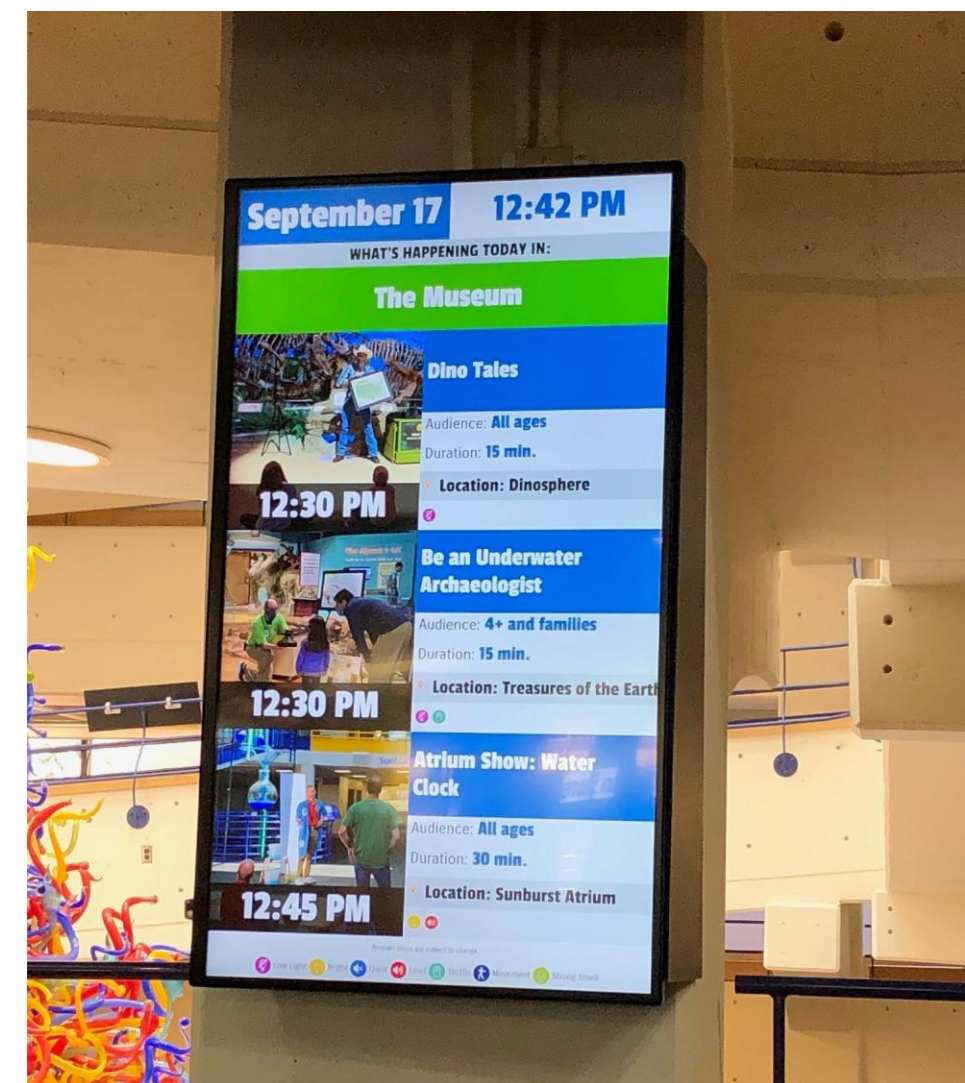
Museum staff wear name tags (ID badges) like this one. Many of them wear shirts that have the museum logo on them, but some wear costumes in the exhibits. A staff member can tell us about the exhibits or help if someone gets lost.



The museum has five floors and many fun **exhibits!**
We may not have time to explore the whole museum.
Sometimes we may have to wait in line or take turns.



Many **exhibits** have free activities we may choose to join. We can check the screens and signs near the exhibits and activity rooms, or the adults can look on the museum's website for activity times.



Each exhibit has a sign with sensory icons at the entrance to help us know what is inside or what may occur in the exhibit or during an activity. An adult in my group can scan the QR code to get more information, like the sensory map of the museum's exhibits.

Sensory maps

Our sensory maps provide information about the layout of the museum and indicate areas that are sensory-heavy, as well as those that may be less stimulating. Symbols indicate if a particular area:



We can use the ramp to go between floors. There is a colorful glass sculpture in the middle. We may also take the elevators.



We can enter ***Dinosphere***® on Level 1. This exhibit has many areas, like the ramp, the dome, the Monsters of the Mesozoic Seas™ hallway, and the Dinosphere Art Lab. There are sound and light shows that play on the large wall along the ramp behind two huge sauropods!



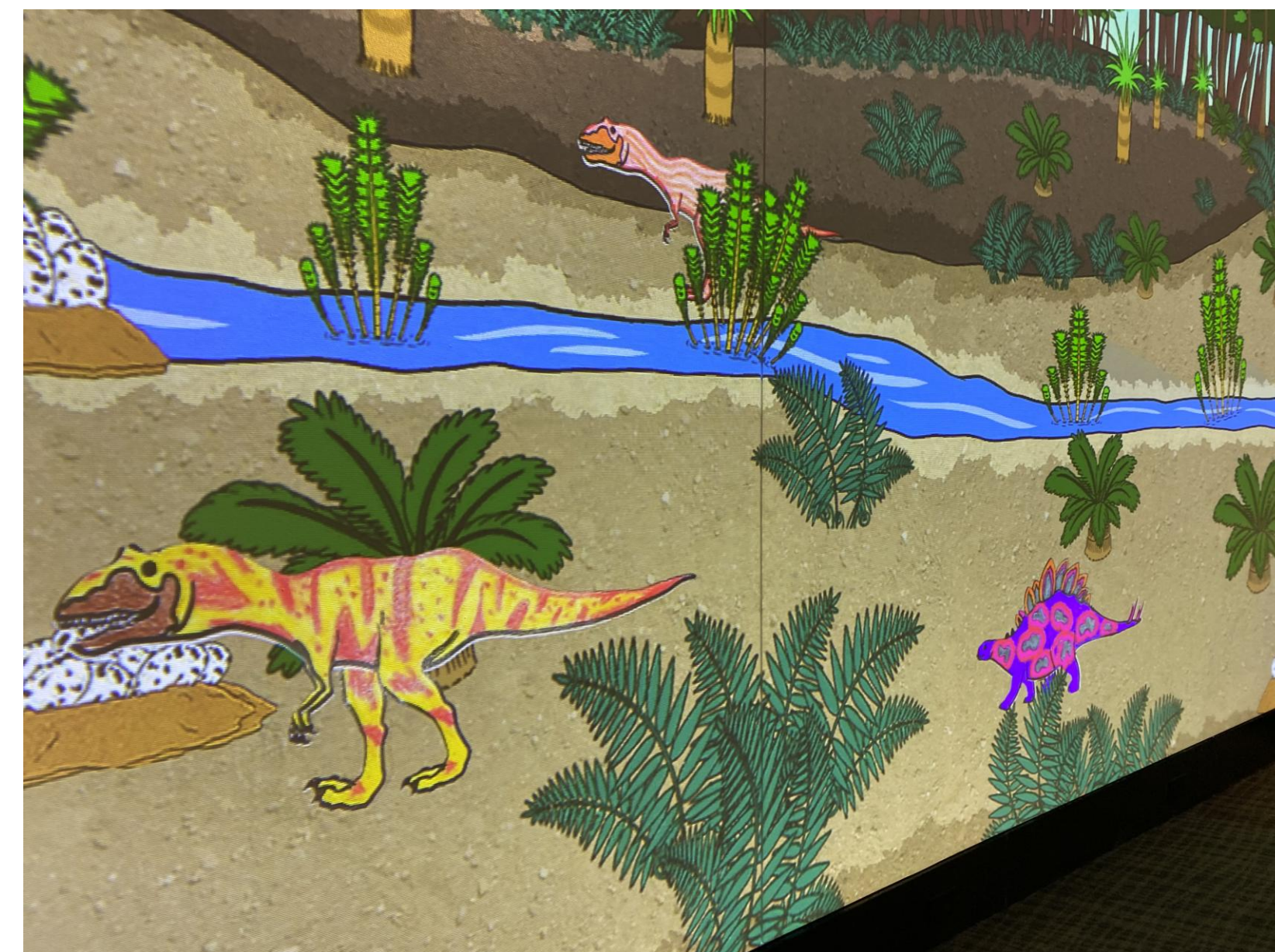
On the Lower Level, many fossil favorites are in the dome, like the *Tyrannosaurus rex* and Super Croc. The dome has a day-night cycle that includes a thunderstorm.



Across from the dome, there is a **Paleo Prep Lab** window. Here, we can watch scientists work on real fossils. If we want, we can also talk to the scientists, and we may be able to touch the fossils! Past the elevator and stairs, there is a hallway with blue lighting displaying marine fossils.



There are more dinosaur elements to explore in Level 2 ***Dinosphere*** and the **Dinosphere Art Lab**. We can learn how sauropods grew so big! We may see different art styles as scientists and artists explore how dinosaurs may have looked when they were alive. We might also color our own dinosaurs and watch them come to life on the projection screen!



All Aboard! is on the Lower Level between the main ramp and *Dinosphere*®. We can see the Reuben Wells steam engine, a Pennsylvania Railroad tool car, and model trains! We might walk through the Passenger Car area or the real tool car. We can pretend to travel to new places, act like a conductor, or help build and fix train tracks and cars. Shows take place with lights, projections, and many sounds.



In *National Geographic Treasures of the Earth*, we can visit an Egyptian tomb, a shipwreck, and an army of Terra Cotta Warriors. The tomb is a darker space, but we may see flashing lights during the sound and light show. These areas can often be loud.



In *Fireworks of Glass*, we can see colorful glass sculptures and look for special pieces in the ceiling. We can learn how the sculptures were made.



In ***Beyond Spaceship Earth***, we can play games and learn about being an astronaut on the International Space Station. This is a smaller space with lots of colors and patterns.



We may choose to see a show in the **Schaefer Planetarium and Space Object Theater**. A staff member will show us where to sit. This space will be dark during the show, so everyone can see the video on the dome. The show is loud, and the seats might rumble.



On Level 1, in the **Sunburst Atrium**, we may look at the **Water Clock**. The **Concierge Desk** is located near the ramp. The concierge is a staff member who can help us find exhibits and restrooms or provide other information. Activities may take place in the Sunburst Atrium.



On Level 2, we can adventure through *Take Me There®: Peru*. There are three regions: the city and coast, the mountains, and the rainforest. We can explore Peruvian cultures and languages. We can play in the market, try new instruments or dances, and learn about art forms, such as weaving or silver embossing.



Near *Take Me There*®: *Peru, Stories from Our Community* shows artwork from local Black artists. There is also a case honoring Crispus Attucks and the USA's 250th anniversary.



Also on Level 2, we can visit ***Tiana's Joyful Celebration***. Tiana is making the final preparations for the Mardi Gras parade and needs help! We can decorate parade floats, design costumes, or paint a mural. We may also learn some dance steps or rehearse with the band.



This special exhibit is open from March 7, 2026–Jan. 4, 2027.

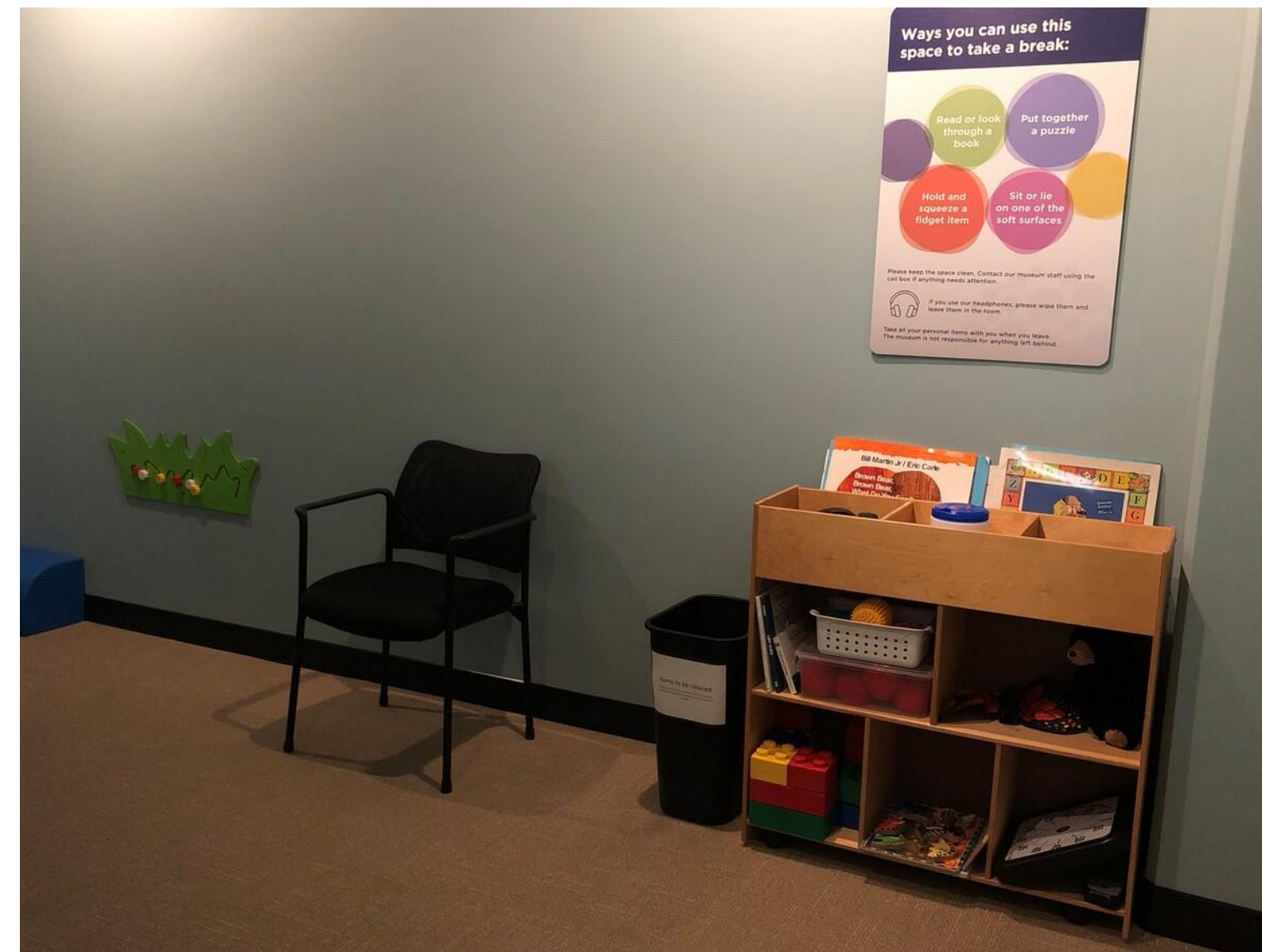
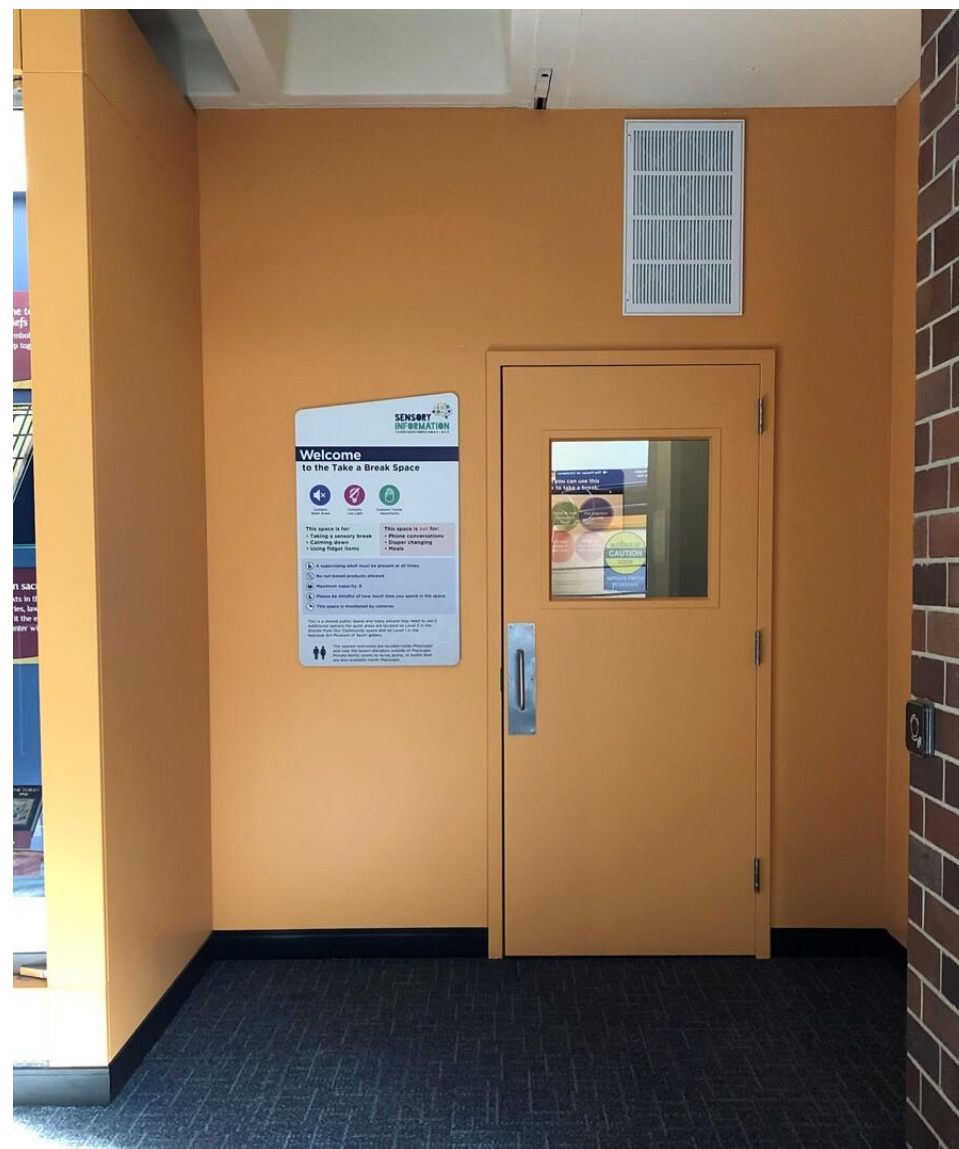
Several times during the day in *Tiana's Joyful Celebration*, a finale moment will occur in the gallery. Gather around the royal-themed float to join the celebration. A song will play while the lights change in the gallery, on the floats, and on the string lights above.



Through the purple arch in *American POP*, we can look at toys, books, comics, and costumes! We can create a superhero or play matching games with music clips. There are many bright colors and different sounds in this space.



On Level 3, we might use the **Take a Break Space** near the Take Me There overlook. This is a smaller room we can use to take a break or have a quiet moment. When we are ready, we can continue exploring the museum.



On Level 3, we can visit ***The Power of Children®***. Inside, we will hear stories about brave children who faced big challenges. We can learn about their stories and how they made changes in history! There are voice recordings and a few motion-activated sounds. Each building has timed sound-and-light shows and more formal activities.



On Level 4, we can look at miniature houses in **Mini Masterpieces**. We can learn how miniatures are made and create a design on a touchscreen.



Also on Level 4, in **ScienceWorks**, we can learn about nature and science. We may watch real animals around the Pond, play at the water table, or explore rocks and landscapes. We may also learn how things work in houses or on farms. This space may smell like a swimming pool from the product used to keep the water in the water table clean.



Inside *Carousel Wishes and Dreams*, we can use our imaginations to play! We can go inside the different houses or move through the mirror maze. We may also play video games and table games. This space may be louder from the Carousel music.



When it is time for our group to leave, we will return to the **Sack Lunch Area** on Level 1. There may be other school groups also preparing to leave around the same time, so it may be crowded or loud. We need to stay with our group. Teachers and chaperones will give us instructions. When we are all ready to leave, we will get back on the school bus and return to school.



From all of us at **The Children's
Museum of Indianapolis**, we
can't wait for your field trip!
See you soon!



Teachers: The following optional slides have information about programs and activities that require school groups to be registered in advance or have other information that you may or may not want to include when you share this social narrative with students. Please select the slides that apply to your group's field trip.

When it is time for our scheduled lunch, we will return to the **Sack Lunch Area** on Level 1. We might have to wait in line before we are assigned a table. There may be other school groups eating in the Sack Lunch Area at the same time. We have 25 minutes to eat, and we need to clean up when it is time to leave.



Our school group purchased **Carousel** tickets. We will ride a real carousel! We will wait in line until it is our turn and then choose where to sit. The adults can stand near us or sit on the benches. The Carousel will rotate (spin), light up, and play a song. Some of the horses move up and down.



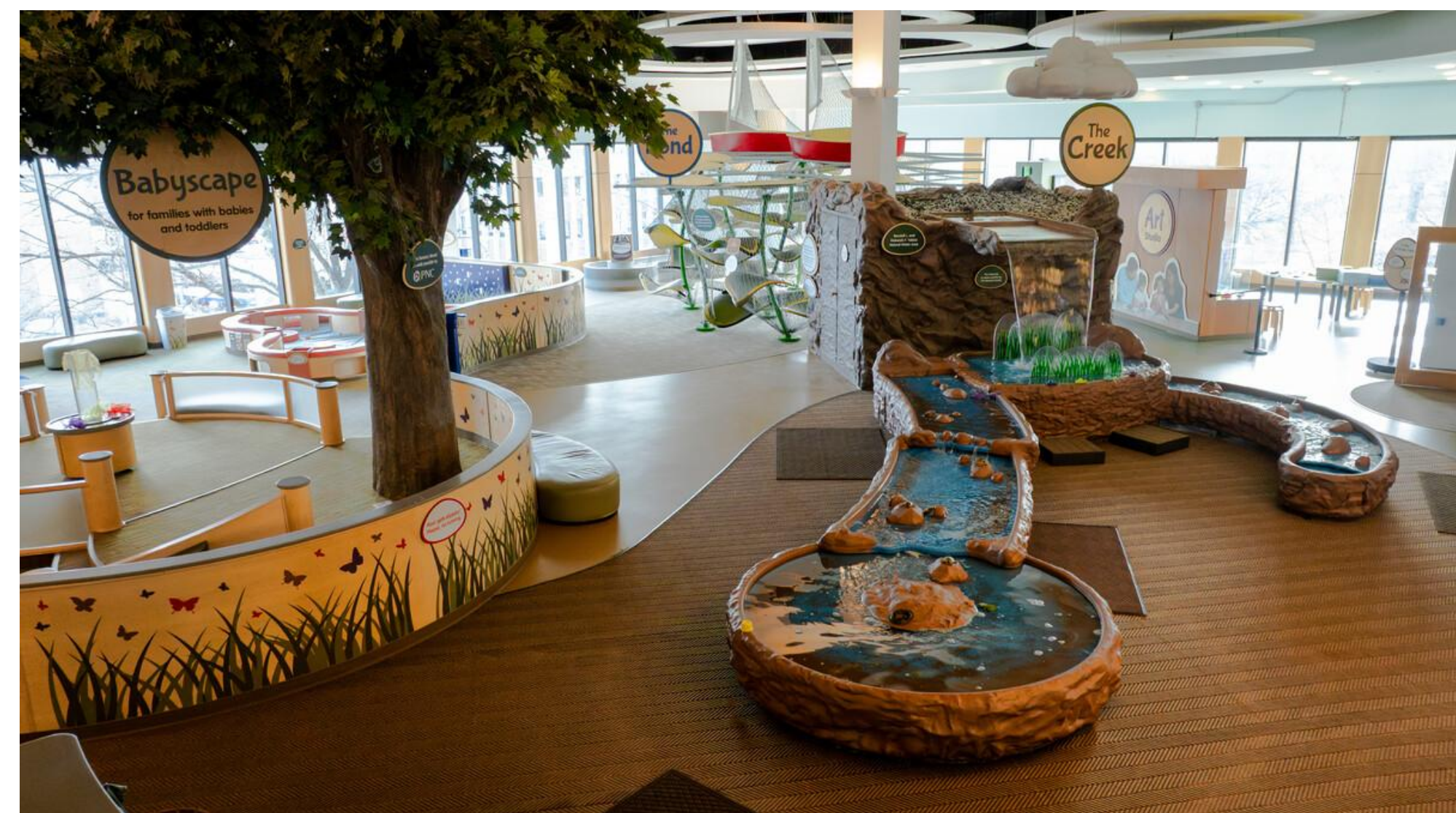
Our school group will not ride the **Carousel** during our field trip. We may watch other visitors ride, observe how it works, and look at the painted animals. The Carousel will rotate (spin), light up, and play a song.



The museum has a store and Food Court on Level 1.
Our school is not going to explore these areas during our field trip. You might explore them another time, if you visit the museum with your family.



On Level 3 in **Playscape**®, we can play at the water table or the sand tables. We can use building blocks, art supplies, and instruments. This space may smell like a swimming pool from the product used to keep the water clean. It can also be loud.



Teachers: Playscape is available to preschool, Pre-K, and special education groups that have pre-registered.

Please Note: Playscape® is temporarily closed from Sept. 8–Nov. 6, 2026 for renovations.

Our school group has scheduled a **program** in the **STEMLab**. We will go to Level 4 and enter through the *ScienceWorks* exhibit. A staff member will greet us and explain our activity.



Our school group has scheduled a **program** in a classroom on Level 1. A staff member will greet us and explain our activity.



Our school group will participate in a special **school event** during our field trip. There will be tables around the museum with things to learn and do. Museum staff and volunteers will teach us the activities. There will be other schools participating and we may need to take turns.



Our group will watch a live theater performance in the **Lilly Theater**. The Lilly Theater is located on the Lower Level. We will arrive to the theater lobby about 15 minutes before the show starts and a staff member will show us where to sit.



Our school group is registered for the ***Riley Children's Health Sports Legends Experience***®. We will go through the Welcome Center and enter under the brick archway. We will show our field trip stickers to a staff member at the entry gates.



Outside in the ***Riley Sports Legends Experience***, we can play 10 different sports! There are many ways to play and a walking path.



Outdoor sports are open for the season from March–November. School groups must be registered.

Outside, there are restrooms and water fountains near the **Kohler Pavilion**. We may also climb inside **The Children's Museum Guild's Fantasy Tree House of Sports!**

