

Early Learner's Guide to The Children's Museum



Early Childhood programs are experiences and paid programs for our youngest learners, including toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergartners.

childrensmuseum.org



**CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**
INDIANAPOLIS®

This Early Learner's Guide is available to help you and your young child have a personal, fun, and meaningful visit. These curated programs and experiences will have your child learning, investigating, and discovering the museum in new ways. We here at The Children's Museum recognize and celebrate that all children play uniquely and differently, so please visit the experiences that you believe are best suited for your child regardless of their age.



Fireworks of Glass

LL

Young Toddler

Play a game of I Spy. Ask your child to identify different shapes and colors while admiring Chihuly's blown-glass sculpture.



Preschool Age

Become inspired and create your own sculpture using replica pieces of Chihuly glass modules.



Kindergarten

Use the interactive computer and become a gaffer, learning the steps of how blown-glass art is made.



Fireworks of Glass



Young Toddler

Use pretend nuts, bolts, and wrenches to help repair and maintain the International Space Station.



Preschool Age

Astronauts use codes to help them control and operate the International Space Station. See if you can follow along and replicate the code.



Kindergarten

Take control of the Canadarm and help astronauts on the International Space Station receive incoming cargo.

Family Fun

Astronaut in Training

*Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.

Treasures of the Earth

Young Toddler

Climb and crawl in the deep blue sea as you pretend to be an underwater archaeologist.



Preschool Age

Visit an archaeology dig site and use tools to uncover artifacts with other archaeologists researching the ancient Terra Cotta Warriors.



Kindergarten

Work together as a team of archaeologists to decode hieroglyphs in Seti's Tomb.



Family Fun

Be an Underwater Archaeologist

**Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*

LL



Young Toddler

Connect, push, and pull trains around winding tracks at the play tables.

Preschool Age

Enjoy imaginative play inside the train station. Answer calls on a pretend phone and hand out tickets to visitors as they get ready to depart on the next train.



Kindergarten

Discuss how the Reuben Wells train was unlike any other because it was a "helper locomotive," and pushed other trains instead of pulling freight.



Family Fun

All Aboard! with the Reuben Wells

**Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*

All Aboard!



(Outdoors open March–November)

Preschool Age

Shoot, dribble, and practice running the court at the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever Basketball Experience.



Kindergarten

Batter up! At the baseball experience, work as a team with your family while running the bases and making a home run on Wiese Field.



Family Fun

Preschool Muscle Movers

**Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*





Young Toddler

Rev up your engines and “race” cars around the play table track.



Preschool Age

In the NCAA Sports Legends training area, become a gymnast and try the balance beam.



Kindergarten

Watch pucks glide on the “ice” and work together as a team to score a goal.



NATIONAL
ART MUSEUM
OF
SPORT

L1

Preschool Age

Let your child pick their favorite work of art. Looking at the work, facilitate a “see, think, wonder” lesson. Scaffold their learning by asking them these three questions:



- 1 What do you see?
- 2 What do you think?
- 3 What do you wonder?



Kindergarten

Sculpt an athlete in action using putty and armatures. Discuss the different ways athletes use their bodies when playing sports.



THE NEW

DINOSPHERE

NOW YOU'RE IN THEIR WORLD



Young Toddler

Explore Mesozoic marine life while visiting the interactive sea wall and ocean-themed play table. *(Lower Level)*



Preschool Age

Become a paleontologist and make prehistoric discoveries of your own while digging for dinosaur bones at the dig site. *(Lower Level)*



Kindergarten

Stop by Polly H. Hix Paleo Prep Lab to meet staff who are researching real dinosaur bones. *(Lower Level)*

Family Fun

Up Close and Personal in the Cretaceous

**Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*

Other Places to Visit on the FIRST FLOOR

Young Toddler Seven Wonders Sculptures

Climb, crawl, and walk through the garden to take time to learn about these famous wonders of the world.

*Outdoors in Seven Wonders
Sculpture Garden*



Preschool Age Water Clock

Stop by and check out North America's largest Water Clock. Observe the clock with your child and notice what happens when minutes or seconds pass by.



Preschool Age Ball Machine

Study the tracks inside the machine and try navigating the paths of the balls by using ramps, levers, and pulleys.



L2

DINOSPHERE ART LAB



Preschool Age

Become a paleo artist and illustrate your own dinosaur. Visit a scanning station and watch your dinosaur come to life!



Kindergarten

Are you as tall as a sauropod? Visit the "How do you measure up" wall and compare your height to a family of growing sauropods.



Family Fun Dinosaurs Alive!

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The Art of PROTEST

Preschool Age

Have a conversation with your child about artists, who use pictures and words to create artworks that express feelings, emotions, and experiences which are important to them and to our community. To connect their feelings to the names of emotions, ask your child how they feel when looking at the different letters.



L2

TAKE ME THERE[®] GREECE

Presented by **IceMiller**
LEGAL COUNSEL

Take Me There:[®] Greece



Young Toddler

Fish off the coast of Greece. Use fishing poles to hook your fish, and then weigh your catch of the day before heading to the market.



Preschool Age

Learn how to protect and care for sea turtles at Turtle Rescue Center.



Kindergarten

Learn about Greek architecture and art while visiting the Cultural Center.

Family Fun Taste of Greece

**Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*



Playscape

Discover It Together

L3

Young Toddler

Discover new textures and sounds while cruising, crawling, and climbing through Babyscape.



Preschool Age

Splash about at the water table as you learn about different animals that call a creek their home.



Kindergarten

Play and explore a variety of instruments from all over the world inside the Music Studio.



Family Fun

Experiencing Art Together

**Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*

Playscape®

The Power of Children: Making a Difference

This exhibit provides families with an environment in which to discuss racism, prejudice, and discrimination. Because of the exhibit content, some of the experiences may be challenging for younger children to understand. Please visit the experiences in the exhibit that are best suited and appropriate for your family and child.



Preschool Age

Visit the Take Action Spinners located in each area of the exhibit. Let your child spin the interactive to select one of the "take action" words. Discuss the word with your child, including its power and the ways you—as a family—can take action to make a difference in your home, neighborhood, or school, especially when you witness or experience inequality.



ScienceWorks

Young Toddler

Imagine life on a farm while steering tractors through the fields of crops at the play table.



Preschool Age

Solve the dinner plate puzzle to create a balanced and healthy meal inside The Farm House.



Kindergarten

Visit The Hillside and look for different animals native to Indiana. Discuss which animals you have seen before.



Family Fun

Life in The Pond

**Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*

Carousel Wishes & Dreams



Preschool Age

Host a tea party or work in the ice cream shop in the child-size houses at the back of the exhibit.



Kindergarten

Navigate your way through the mirror maze, taking twists and turns that lead you to new discoveries.



Family Fun Carousel Ride

**Carousel rides are free for members and children under the age of 2; nonmember cost is \$1 per ride.*

Other Fun Experiences

Mini Masterpieces

Level 4

Preschool Age

Play a game of I Spy with your child. Read riddle clues around the exhibit and ask your child to help find the mystery objects located in the miniature rooms.



IndyCar Show Car

Level 3

Young Toddler

Experience what it would feel and look like to be an Indy 500 racecar driver as you sit inside a racecar and take your turn at the wheel.



Flight Adventures

Lower Level

Kindergarten

Use the “Why are a plane’s wings shaped like this?” interactive to learn how airplanes fly and one of the four forces of flight.



Flight Adventures—IndyCar Show Car—Mini Masterpieces

**Exciting
Early Childhood
programs are happening
right now!**

Head to our website
for program details and
registration information.

Visit **childrensmuseum.org**
for more information about exhibit program times,
Early Childhood programs, and other special events.

*Information about new exhibits and experiences will be added
to this guide so visit again soon for new ways to explore the museum!*