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

childrensmuseum.org
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

**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.
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.
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.
**All Aboard!**

- **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**
  *Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*
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.
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.
**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.
**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!
*Visit childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar for daily program times.*
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.
Take Me There:® Greece

**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.*
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.
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.
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.
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.
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 to 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.
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!