My Trip to the Children's Museum

A social story for visitors

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See you soon!	
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Welcome!

I am going to visit Children's Museum of Pittsburgh! There are several large buildings for me to explore.

At the Children's Museum I can...

- Make art in the Studio
- Build with tools and materials in MAKESHOP
- Play with water and ice in Waterplay

And so much more!

During my visit I will:

- 1. Stay with my grownup
- 2. Be mindful of my body and how I move in spaces
- 3. Take turns with the other people

Main Entrance Photo



Lobby

When I enter the Museum, I may need to wait in a line while my grownup gets our tickets.

At the Front Desk, I can ask to borrow a Sensory Kit. A Sensory Kit is a bag with items like...

- Noise cancelling headphones, if there are spaces that are too noisy.
- Sun glasses, if there are spaces that are too bright.
- Fidget toys, if I want to keep my hands busy.
- Other items I can use during my visit to help me feel comfortable.

I will return the Sensory Kit before I leave.

I can look at a map to help me decide which areas I want to visit. If I have any questions, I can ask a staff person. A staff person will be wearing a name tag.

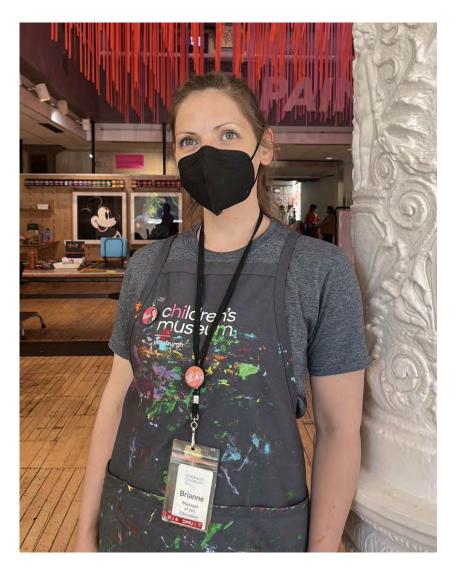
Lobby Photo



Sensory Kit



Staff Person



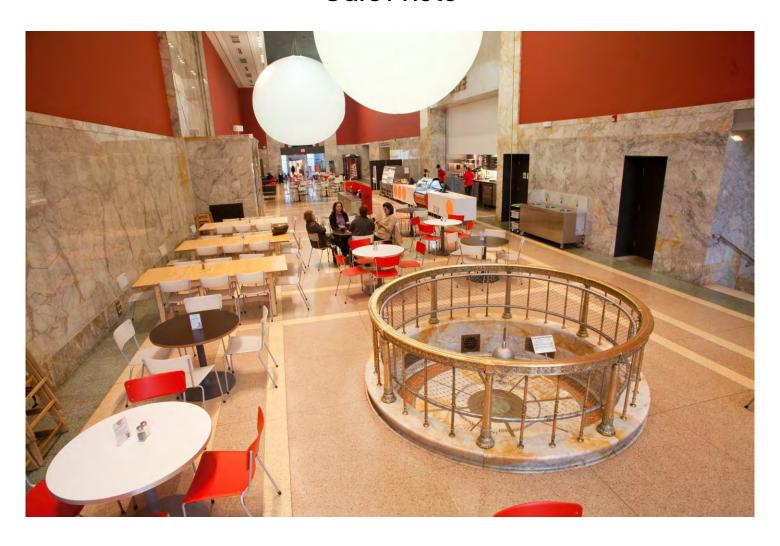
Café

The Café is a large room with big, white inflatable balls hanging from the tall ceilings. If I want to eat lunch, have a snack, or drink anything other than water, I will go to the Café. I can bring my own food or buy food at Beansprouts. The Beansprouts menu has gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegetarian options. There is a pendulum in the cafe. I can watch the pendulum swing and knock over pegs.

Beansprouts Café Menu



Café Photo



The Store

On my way to the Store, I may notice lights flickering above my head.

The Store sells items like toys, books and art kits.

The Store is closed on Mondays.

The Store Photo



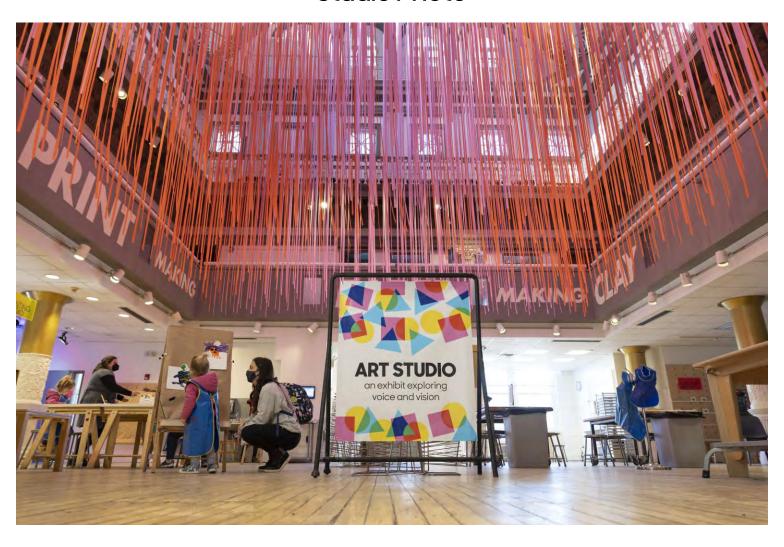
Studio

The Studio has a high dome ceiling and can make lots of echoes. There is an orange and pink art piece hanging from above.

In the Studio, I can make my own art. The art activities may be different each time I am here. There are staff who can answer my questions and help me create art. Sometimes the art is for me to take home. Other times we work together to make art that stays at the Museum.

There are smocks that I can wear, if I do not want to get messy. The room has sinks for me to wash my hands.

Studio Photo



The Backyard (Seasonal)

The Backyard is outside of the Studio. It is open if the weather is warm and dry. Sometimes there are animals in the Backyard, like bees, birds, and rabbits.

When I go outside, I may hear the sounds of bells from the musical swing set. I can play in a large sandbox with other kids. If the weather is warm, I may be able to play with mud. The mud will feel wet and cool and smell like eucalyptus and mint. If I do not like how it feels or smells, I can wash it off at the handwashing station outside.

Backyard Photo

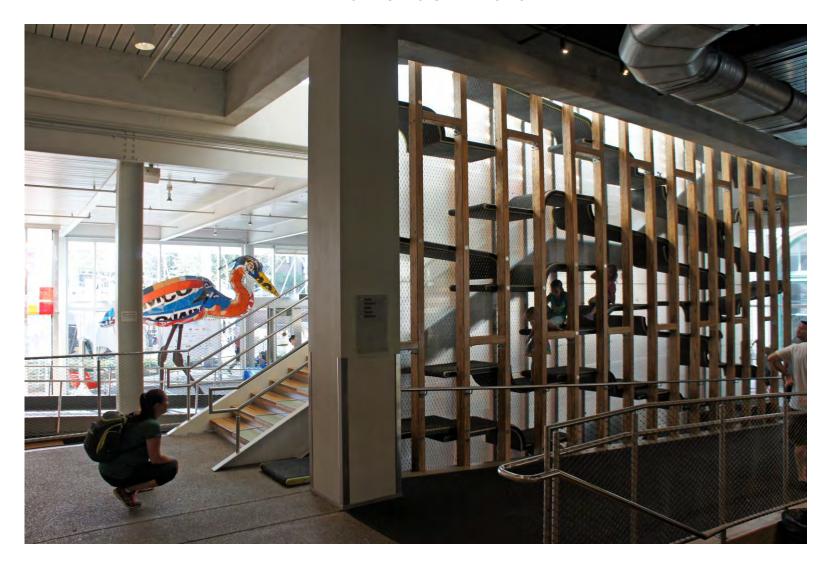


Limb Bender

In the Limb Bender, I can climb through small spaces. I can climb all the way to the second floor. My grownup can climb with me or wait outside and watch me climb. If I climb all the way up, I have to climb all the way back down again.

The Limb Bender can be noisy and crowded. I need to be careful so that I don't bump my head or step on someone's fingers. The texture of the floor feels rough. If I become afraid, I can ask another visitor or staff member for help.

Limb Bender Photo



MAKESHOP®

On my way into MAKESHOP, I may notice noises from an art piece, with colorful pool noodles, moving along the ceiling.

In MAKESHOP, I can make projects and tinker with tools and materials. The activities in MAKESHOP may be different each time I am here.

There are staff who can answer my questions and help me with the activities. Sometimes I can take home the projects that I make. Other times we work together to make projects that stay in the Museum.

I might play with The Beast, a mechanical, wooden cow with coiled springs that make popping sounds and move plastic balls.

MAKESHOP Photo



Buhl Hallway

Buhl Hallway leads to the Kindness Gallery, the Garage and the Traveling Gallery. The Hallway has exhibit pieces hanging on the walls with lights, sounds and moving parts. I may hear sounds from the Garage and Kindness Gallery.

The entrance of the Buhl Hallway is dark so that people can see the art more easily. If I am nervous to go through, I can ask a staff person in MAKESHOP for help.

Buhl Hallway Photo



Kindness Gallery

The Kindness Gallery is a colorful room that can be crowded and loud. I may hear...

- Feet stomping on the stairs
- Music playing from the record player
- Other people shouting in the Gravity Room

There are puppets in glass cases along the walls. I can turn the crank of a machine that lifts and drops cardboard boxes. I can push and pull a lever on a machine to crush paper. I may have to wait my turn.

If I want to go down the slide, I need to walk up the stairs and through the Gravity Room. The floor in the Gravity Room is slanted. It makes some people feel dizzy. If I am too nervous to go through, I can walk back down the stairs.

Kindness Gallery Photo



Garage

The Garage is a very large room with a high domed ceiling that can make lots of echoes. In the Garage I may hear...

- The sounds of balls falling
- Nuts and bolts clanging in a metal bucket

There is a large pulley in the center of the room that I can use to send a ball up to a track above my head. I can watch the ball travel all around the domed ceiling. Sometimes the ball falls off the tracks or gets stuck.

If I am at least 42 inches tall, I can climb up a rope ladder to get to the second level. If I do not want to climb the ladder, I can take the stairs or the elevator. If I am going to use the elevator, I will ask a staff person for help.

On the second level, I can crank a parachute to the top of the dome and watch it fall down. I can slide down a fast and twisty slide. I can also use the stairs and elevator to get back down.

Garage Photo



Traveling Gallery

The exhibits in the Traveling Gallery change throughout the year. Right now, I can visit Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood. The lights in this space are bright. In this space I may hear...

- Music from Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood playing from the radio
- Trolley bells ringing
- Clanging and jingling from chimes and other instruments

Traveling Gallery Photo



Nursery

I can take the stairs or the elevator next to MAKESHOP to get to the Nursery on the second floor. The green steps on the other side of the Limb Bender make noises when I step on them.

I can play with trains, build with blocks and play with sand. There are three black panels with holes that I can put colorful pegs into and the pegs will light up.

Above my head, there is a shiny disco ball that spins and reflects light.

There are calm places in the Nursery where I can sit, relax and read a book.

Nursery Photo



Waterplay

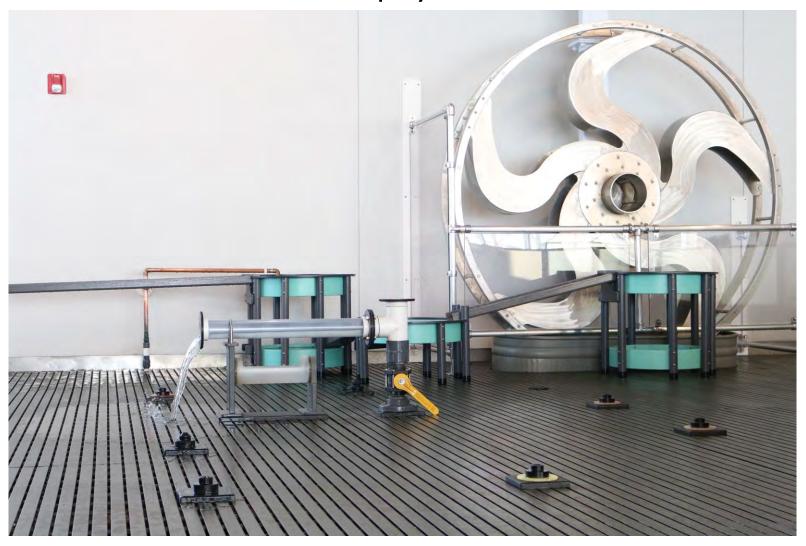
I can take the stairs or the elevator next to MAKESHOP to get to Waterplay on the third floor. Waterplay can be loud. The floors make echoes and the water makes splashing sounds.

I can play with water and ice. It is okay if I don't want to get wet. I can just stand, watch and listen to the sounds the water makes.

I can put on a smock. The smock will help keep my clothes dry. I will be careful on the slippery floors. Water comes out of the center of the Water Wheel in a big rush!

There's a cozy corner where I can go if I want a place to relax and read books.

Waterplay Photo



See you soon!

The Museum closes at 5:00 PM so that the staff people can go home to their families and friends.

If I am in the Museum when it is close to closing time, I will hear announcements reminding visitors how long it is until closing.

Thank you for visiting!