My Trip to the Children's Museum

A Museum Story For Visitors

children's museum
pittsburgh

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Welcome!

I am going to visit the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh! There are many fun things to see, explore, and create.

At the Children's Museum I can...

- Make art in the Studio
- Build with tools and materials in MAKESHOP
- Climb, jump, and move my body in the exhibits in Buhl Hallway
- 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. If I look up I will see orange balls moving in circles and making patterns on the ceiling. If I look down I will see colorful lights on the floor.

At the Front Desk, I can ask to borrow a Sensory Kit. A Sensory Kit is a bag with items like sunglasses, noise canceling headphones, fidgets and 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 and a shirt that says "hi."

Lobby Photo



Items in the Sensory Kits



FIDGETS can be used as a tool to help individuals with sensory processing disorders feel calm and help them focus their attention.



NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES are a great tool to help reduce background noise which in turn can help with concentration and reducing anxiety.



Wearing **SUNGLASSES** reduces bright and flashing lights that might cause sensory overload.



Using a **TIMER** provides clear and predictable cues about time and transitions. A manual timer rather than a timer on a phone or tablet will reduce distraction from other applications and notifications.



A FIRST AID KIT allows for quick response to minor injuries which can help with calmness.

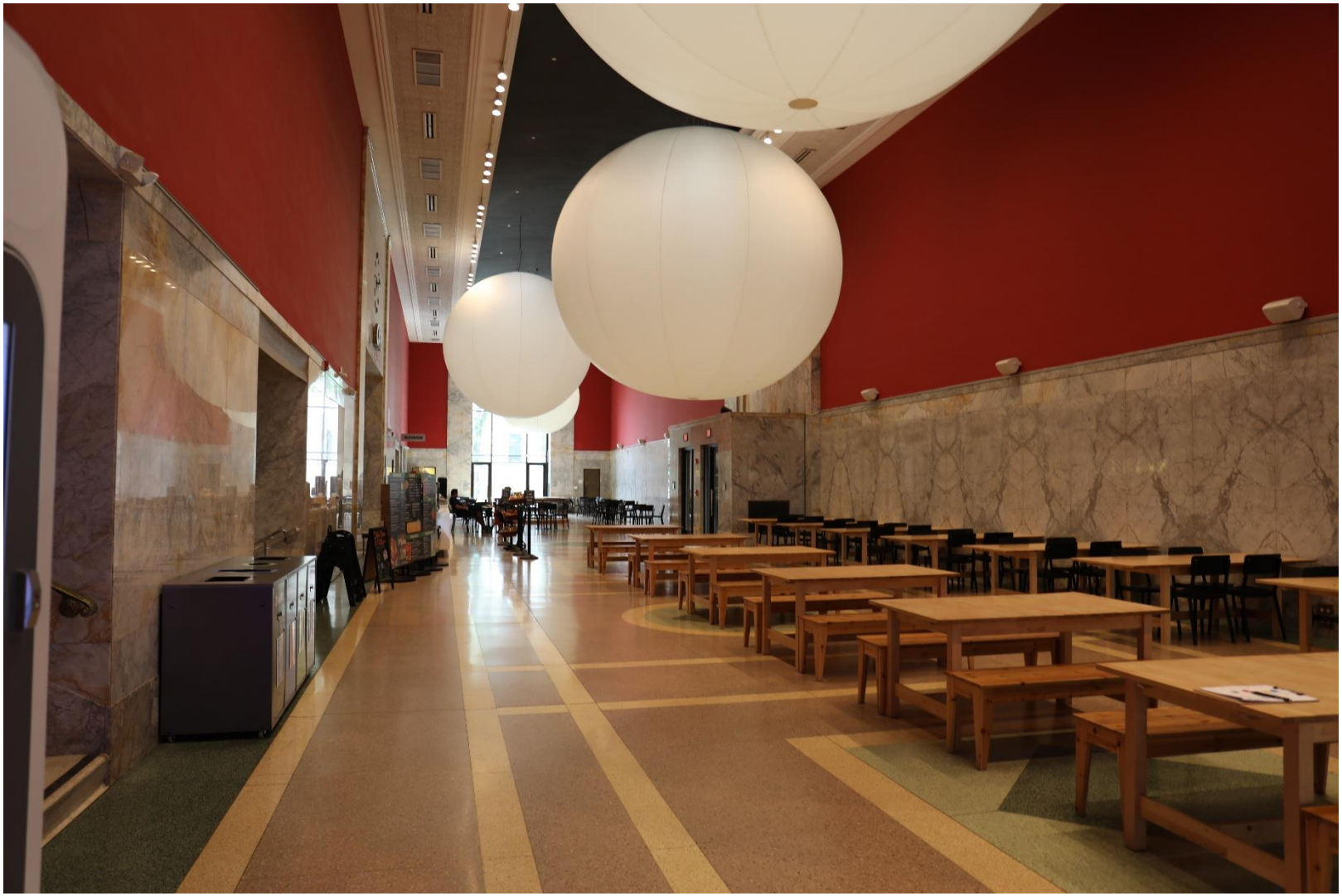
Staff Person



Café

The Café is a large room with big, white inflatable balls hanging from the **tall ceilings and lots of tables and chairs**. If I want to **eat lunch**, have a **snack**, or **drink** anything **other than water**, I can go to the Café. I can bring my own food or buy food in the Café. There is a pendulum in the Cafe. I can watch the pendulum swing and knock over pegs. There are restrooms and a water fountain downstairs.

Café Photo



The Store

On my way to the Store from the Lobby, I may notice lights flickering above my head. The lights were put there by an artist, and I can touch the textures of the artwork on the walls. There are many different kinds of art to explore all around the Children's Museum.

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

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** in 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**.

There is a **quiet room** next to the Studio where I can take a break, look at books or play with toys.

Studio Photo



The Backyard (Seasonal)

The Backyard is outside of the Studio. It is open if the weather is **warm and dry**. The Backyard has plants and places to play. Sometimes there are animals, like bees, birds and rabbits.

When I go outside, I notice a bright orange and yellow structure made of large tubes. I can **climb** inside of it. It may be dark and feel tight.

The Backyard Photo



The 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.**

The Limb Bender Photo



MAKESHOP®

On my way into MAKESHOP, I may notice **noises** from an art piece with a rainbow of colorful fabric circles **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 can see examples of tools and things other people have made all around the space.

I can explore different exhibits and artwork in the MAKESHOP. I can pull on a rope and pretend to lift different heavy objects on a screen.

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 can look at and touch the artworks. I may **hear** sounds from the Garage and Kindness Gallery. The entrance of 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 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
- 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 can talk on a telephone or type on a keyboard to send messages to a friend. 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
- **Air blowing** in the tornado room

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 go all around the domed ceiling. Sometimes the ball falls off the track or gets stuck.

I can step inside a small room with clear walls to feel wind blowing all around me. I can play with colorful scarves and balls to see how the wind moves them. I can put on headphones to make this room less loud.

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 **wait** until the stoplight turns **green** and **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. There is always something new to explore.

Check the Children's Museum website to see what is new in the Traveling Gallery: https://pittsburghkids.org/exhibits_type/temporary-exhibits/

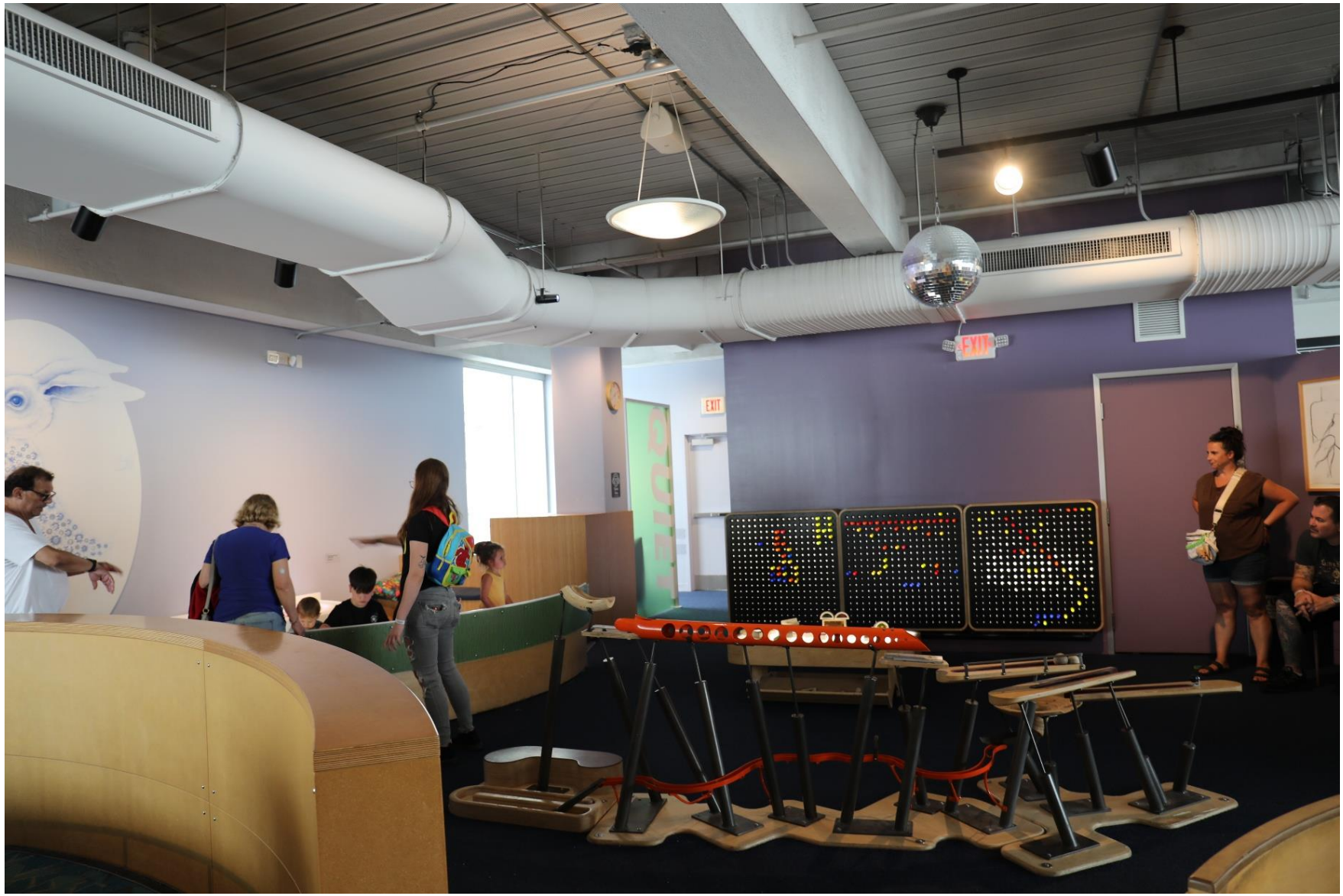
Nursery

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 funny **noises** when I **step** on them.

In the Nursery 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**. The floors may be **slippery**. 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!

If I am here close to **closing time**, I will hear **announcements** reminding visitors how long it is until closing. The Museum closes at **5 PM**, so that the staff people can go home to their families and friends. Thank you for visiting!