



Active, Powerful Play at Providence Children's Museum

Providence Children's Museum, Rhode Island's only hands-on museum especially for families, is an active place where kids and grown-ups play and learn together. Located in Providence's Jewelry District, the Museum presents interactive exhibits and lively programs for children ages 1 to 11.

The Museum's newest play and learning environments, which opened in June 2010, celebrate the importance of active outdoor play. *The Climber* is a safe and challenging, one-of-a-kind climbing sculpture designed by acclaimed artists and architects Tom and Spencer Luckey. This is the first *outdoor* climber designed by the father/son team and invites children to climb to new heights as they wriggle and stretch through an enclosed maze of undulating platforms. An imaginative subterranean adventure through root systems, worm tunnels and critters' burrows featuring the work of several talented local artists, *Underland* encourages exploration, discovery and a deep appreciation of the natural world. Both are located in *The Children's Garden*, which features a play-on map of Rhode Island surrounded by a wide variety of native trees and plants.

In *Play Power*, an exhibit celebrating the power of children's open-ended play, kids and adults investigate air, motion, magnets, light and sound; construct contraptions to send balls down ramps and through mazes; create original musical compositions at a multi-sensory sound sculpture; propel objects through air tubes; and transform a domed play space with interlocking blocks and tubes.

Iway, an exhibit about solving problems, features a kid-sized replica of the new Interstate 195 arch bridge. Children lift I-beams with a crane, investigate bridges and roadways and design their own cities. *Coming to Rhode Island* is a time traveling adventure through Rhode Island history. Families cook a quahog chowder over the fire in the English colonists' cabin; work in an Industrial Revolution-era cotton mill; raise the sail and hoist the anchor on a 19th century packet ship; and ring up mangos and plantains in Fefa's Market, a Latino bodega set in 1961.



In *Water Ways*, children construct fountains, float boats, build channels and experiment with the swirling, whirling ways of water. Toddlers and preschoolers climb into a tree house and swoop down a slide, hop over a stream and crawl through a bear cave in *Littlewoods*, a woodland environment especially for the youngest visitors. In *Bone Zone*, kids bicycle with a skeleton, examine x-rays, assemble a skeleton puzzle and discover the bones beneath their skin. *Shape Space* is a mathematical playground where kids explore the world in two and three-dimensions.

Hands-on programs are offered daily and range from science and engineering challenges in the *FETCH! Lab*, based on the PBS program, to *Play and Learn* for 2- to 4-year-olds.

Museum visits are self-guided and typically last about 3 hours. The Museum is wheelchair accessible and all signage is in English and Spanish. September through March, the Museum is open Tuesday - Sunday and Monday holidays, 9 AM to 6 PM, and select Fridays until 8 PM. April through August, open 7 days, 9 AM to 6 PM, and select Fridays until 8 PM. Admission is \$8.50, members free. Groups of 10 or more receive discounted weekday admission with advance reservation. Call (401) 273-KIDS or visit www.childrenmuseum.org for more information, including a full calendar of events.

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