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Photos available upon request

New *Play Power* Exhibit Premieres at Providence Children's Museum

After two months of extensive renovations – deinstalling and building exhibits, replacing windows, repairing brickwork, sanding, painting, recarpeting – the work has wrapped and Providence Children's Museum reopened Tuesday, October 28 and debuted *Play Power*, its newest learning environment.

A major new exhibit celebrating the power of children's play, *Play Power* gives kids plenty of opportunities for open-ended, unstructured play. They discover the awesome power of air by sending colorful balls and scarves winding and spiraling through giant air tubes and join friends to conduct a multi-sensory symphony at a one-of-a-kind pipe organ. At a curved metal wall, kids explore cause and effect as they form mazes from magnetic ramps, tracks and tubes and try to roll balls all the way to the end. They design vibrant patterns and pictures at a light wall that illuminates thousands of colorful pegs and build with translucent blocks on a glowing light table. Connecting hexagonal foam shapes and noodles, kids invent imaginary worlds and secret spaces in a new domed play structure.

Parents and caregivers rediscover the power of play and reflect on their own play memories as they explore the exhibit and a resource nook stocked with books and take-home materials that encourage understanding and support of child-directed play.

As part of the *Play Power* opening celebration, families will do some serious playing as they join playful programs throughout November:

Sun., November 23

Play Fest

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Ages 3 - 11

Celebrate play! Families exercise their imaginations at hands-on stations throughout the Museum. Wind through a woodland maze with playful surprises around every corner, explore creative art, movement and music activities, and enjoy jugglers and games galore!

Fri., November 28

Air Play

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Ages 3 - 11

Investigate the power of air! Kids build flyers and discover the playful possibilities of ordinary materials as their inventions soar, float and twist through wind tubes.

Sat., November 29

Junk Music with Donald Knaack

1:00 & 2:00 PM

Ages 3 - 12

The Junkman, Donald Knaack, crosses traditional musical boundaries with an array of infectious rhythms and unique sounds made on 100% recycled materials. The entire audience is invited to jam with the Junkman as he creates grooves guaranteed to rock your socks off!

Sun., November 30

Play Spaces

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Ages 3 - 11

Imagine, stack, build, drape, then reinvent! Kids construct creative playscapes using a variety of interesting materials, including fabric, enormous boxes, rope and dowels.

Get a behind-the-scenes peek at the process of creating *Play Power* on the Museum's blog, accessible through the website: www.childrenmuseum.org



Play Power and extensive renovations to the Museum's historic building are the first of several important advancements as part of the Play Works Campaign for Kids.

Providence Children's Museum is located at 100 South Street in Providence's Jewelry District. September through March, open Tuesday through Sunday and Monday school holidays, 9 AM to 6 PM, and selected Fridays until 8 PM. April through August, open 7 days. Unless indicated, programs are free with Museum admission of \$7.50 per person; admission is always free for Museum members. Call (401) 273-KIDS or visit www.childrenmuseum.org