

GRCM Exhibits Social Story Guide



GRAND RAPIDS
Children's
MUSEUM

Hello!

We are so excited that you will be visiting us soon! We hope you will find this **Exhibits Story Guide** helpful before and during your visit. This guide can be especially helpful in planning visits for anyone who would like to know what to expect, or children and adults with special needs. This preview of our exhibits may help you to picture what it will be like to visit and to choose exhibits you would like to experience. If you would like a map of the exhibits ask someone at the front desk when you arrive. To learn more about our exhibits visit our website at www.grcm.org.



I'm going to the Grand Rapids Children's Museum!

When I go inside, a nice person in a blue apron will say hello to me. Then I will need to stay with my adult while we check in. Maybe I'll hang up my coat. After that we can play!



There are many fun things I can do in the museum. I can play by myself or with other children if I want to. While I'm at the museum there will be many things I want to do and see, so I should remember four important things:

1. I should stay with my adult at all times.
2. I should use my inside voice.
3. My feet should walk, not run.
4. If I need any help or want to ask a question, I can ask a person wearing a dark blue apron. They are nice!



Amigo Amphitheater

There is an amphitheater where I can go on the stage and be an actor, a singer, a comedian, or anything I want! I can put on a costume and use props to make my own play, or I can join a play with others.

If I don't want to go on stage I can watch the other children. I can clap for the other performers and other people might clap for me! If I want to I can take a bow.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Holding props, playing instruments

Large Motor:

Dancing, acting, putting on costumes

Communication:

"Can I tell some jokes?"

"Let's make a play together!"

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers, public speaking.

Light Table

At the light table I can make shapes and towers out of the colorful tiles. The tiles are magnetic, so they can stick together. If I want to, I can stack different colored tiles on top of each other to see how many different colors I can make.

There is a light inside of the table that will make my tiles shine brightly!



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up and placing tiles.

Communication:

"I made the color purple."

"How do magnets work?"

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers.

Starry Skies and Fireflies

At the Starry Skies and Fireflies exhibit, I can put colorful pegs in holes in the wall to make a design. My design will shine bright because there is a light inside of the wall!

It is okay to pull pegs out of the wall to make a new design if I want to, and it is nice when I share the pegs with others.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up and placing pegs.

Communication:

"I'm making a star."

"Can I share your pegs?"

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers.

Bubbles

At the bubbles exhibit I can go to the table and dip the bubble rings into the bubbly water. I can gently wave them through the air or blow air into them to make bubbles. It's okay if I get a little wet, there are paper towels I can dry my hands on.

If I want to, I can stand inside of the bubble tower and pull the ring down to make a giant bubble go around me! Sometimes the bubble tower is hard to use, so I can ask an adult for help.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Dipping and waving the bubble rings.

Large Motor:

Pulling on the ring in the bubble tower and keeping the body in the center.

Communication:

"What shape is your bubble ring?"

"How big can you make your bubble?"

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers, asking for help.

Wee Discover

At the wee discover area there are colorful balls I can roll and put in shapes, and there are many textures on the wall that I can feel with my hands. There is a small bridge I can crawl on or walk across.

There are small children and babies playing on the floor, so I must be very gentle and careful.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up balls and placing them in the shapes in the wall.

Large Motor:

Rolling balls, crawling.

Communication:

"What color goes in the top of the rainbow?"

"I can make my ball roll fast!"

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers.

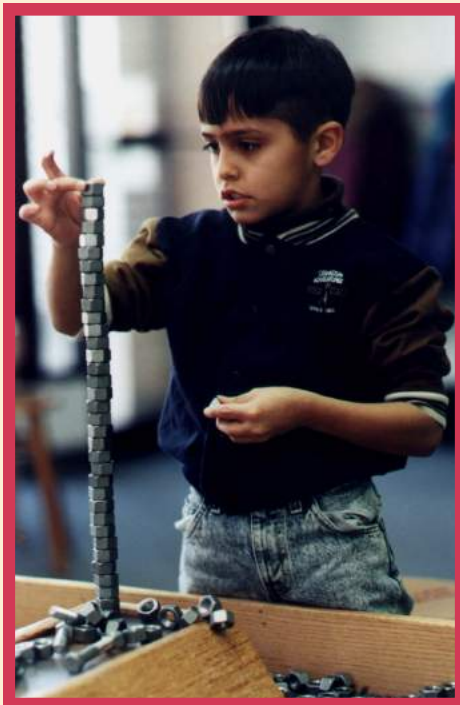
Funstruction!

There are several tables where I can build anything I want to!

There are legos, dominoes, metal objects, and wooden planks.

The metal objects are on a table that is magnetic, so they can stick to the table and to each other.

Sometimes when I build a tall tower it will fall down, but that is okay. I can rebuild it if I want to.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up and placing objects.

Communication:

"I'm going to build a spaceship!"

"May I use that green lego?"

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers.

Just Playing Around

I can play so many different instruments! There is a large whale drum, pipes, a piano, and other objects that I can use to make sounds. Sometimes it can get a little noisy, but that is okay. I can play loudly or quietly. I can even play along with other kids if I want to!



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up drumsticks and paddles.
Pushing piano keys.

Large Motor:

Using drumsticks and paddles.

Communication:

“Some notes are higher and some are lower.”

“Let’s make a band together.”

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers, working together.

Buzzy Buzzy Bees

Returns in May 2015!

There is a bee exhibit where I can watch real bees! The bees are behind a piece of glass so I can't touch them and they can't sting me.

If I want to, I can dress up like a bee!



SKILLS

Communication:

"Look at all of the bees!"

"What do bees eat?"

Social:

Asking questions, observing peers.

Imagination Playground

There is a playground where there are hundreds of foam blocks that I can use to build. I can make a fort, a sculpture, or anything I want! Other kids might want to help me build, or I might want to help other kids build.

Sometimes the blocks tip over and fall, and that is okay.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Connecting blocks.

Large Motor:

Lifting blocks, climbing, crawling

Communication:

"Will you help me build a fort?"

"Look at the robot I built!"

Social:

Playing with others, working together, sharing materials, observing peers.

Aunt Daisy's Farm

At Aunt Daisy's farm I can pick apples and ears of corn,
collect eggs from the chicken coop, and go fishing in the pond.
I can play with the chickens and cows and visit the dogs in
their dog house if I want to.

There is even a horse I can ride named Buttercup.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up eggs and apples.

Large Motor:

Casting fishing poles, riding the horse, crawling through the dog house

Communication:

"I'm going to pick all of the apples!"

"How many chicken eggs can I count?"

Social:

Playing with others, observing peers.

Little GR

Little GR is an exhibit about the City, Grand Rapids. Here I can use my feet to drive a car, pretend at the grocery store, bank and restaurant. I can also pretend to fix the car at the auto shop. This area can sometimes get very busy so sometimes I'll have to share with the other kids.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Using tools to fix the car, counting money

Large Motor:

Driving cars, pushing shopping carts, lifting objects at the grocery store

Communication:

"What would you like to order?"

"I'm going to work at the deli!"

Social:

Sharing with others, group pretend play, observing peers

Adventures in Balance

This is a “Rotating Exhibit”, so it might not be at the museum right now.

Please call (616) 235-4726 to find out what's featured!

There are many fun activities where I can try to balance.

I can balance on stilts, rock back and forth on rocker boards, and walk on a balancing beam. I can even climb a wall if I want to! I can also try to juggle or balance an egg on a spoon.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up and placing pieces of walkway.

Large Motor:

Walking, climbing, balancing.

Communication:

“Look how high I can climb!”

“Let’s cross the lava pit!”

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers.

Open Wide

This is a “Rotating Exhibit”, so it might not be at the museum right now.

Please call (616) 235-4726 to find out what's featured!

There is a place where I can be a dentist. I can brush teeth, floss teeth, put braces on teeth, and take x-rays of mouths. If I want to, I can put on a white jacket like a real dentist.

When I use the drill to remove cavities it will make loud noises, but that is okay!



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Picking up and using toothbrushes, holding drill, flossing teeth

Communication:

“I’m going to brush his teeth so he won’t get cavities!”

“How do you get cavities?”

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers.

Happy Animal Clinic

This is a "Rotating Exhibit", so it might not be at the museum right now.

Please call (616) 235-4726 to find out what's featured!

At the Happy Animal Clinic, I can take care of many different animals! I can be a vet and can listen to the animals' hearts, give them ultrasounds, and give them medicine if they are sick. I can also give them baths and dress them up. All animals will leave happy!



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Typing on computer, using stethoscope and other tools.

Large Motor:

Picking up animals.

Communication:

"I need help with this dog's surgery!"

"Should I give this turtle a bath?"

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers, working together.

Kidstruction Zone

This is a “Rotating Exhibit”, so it might not be at the museum right now.

Please call (616) 235-4726 to find out what’s featured!

When I enter the Kidstruction Zone area I will see a large structure and lots of gravel. I can move the gravel around with a shovel and wheel barrel. I can even sweep the exhibit to help keep it clean! Lots of kids like this exhibit so it can sometimes be very busy. If it gets too loud I can find another place to play.



SKILLS

Fine Motor:

Using tools, punching the time clock

Large Motor:

Shoveling gravel, sweeping, building with big blocks, pushing wheel barrels

Communication:

“Can I go down the slide?”

“Lets get to work!”

Social:

Playing with others, sharing materials, observing peers, working together.

MUSEUM HOURS

Mondayclosed
Tuesday9:30am – 5pm
Wednesday9:30am – 5pm
Thursday9:30am – 8pm
 Family Night 5pm-8pm \$1.75 admission
Friday9:30am – 5pm
Saturday9:30am – 5pm
Sundaynoon – 5pm

ADMISSION PRICES

General Admission\$8.25
 Ages 1 and above
Seniors\$7.25
 Ages 65 and above
TotsFree
 Under 1 year
Military Family Member.....\$6.25

Discovery Field Trip

Discovery Field Trips are self-guided and allows the students and their chaperones to experience the museum at their own pace. Groups can be greeted by a field trip facilitator who will provide a short overview of the current exhibits and other important information.

Discovery Field Trip Scholarships

Scholarship programs provide play opportunities for underserved populations in the Grand Rapids metro area and beyond. These scholarships give all children of West Michigan the opportunity to visit, learn and play at the Museum at no charge or for a minimal fee.

For more information about our scholarship program and to download an application, please visit: www.grcm.org/visit/field-trips

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