Museum Stories Guide

Museum Stories describe each of the Children's Museum’s exhibits from a child’s perspective. They will help you and your child choose the exhibits you want to visit. The guide, specially designed for children with developmental disabilities, utilizes visual messages, and is appropriate for any child who would like to know about exhibits or activities in the Museum. Guides and maps are available at the Admissions desk as well as on this website.

Written in collaboration with
The School at McGuire Memorial
My Visit

I am going to visit the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. It is a fun place to visit. There are many different things that I can do at the Museum.

When I get to the Museum, I will need to stand in a line and wait for my adult to pay for us.

If I have questions, I can ask one of the workers. They will be wearing a gray Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh apron or t-shirt and a name tag.

During my visit I need to follow the Museum manners:

1. I will stay with my adult.
2. I will use my walking feet.
3. I will take turns with the other children.

There will be many things to see when I am there.

I can use my map to help me decide which exhibits I want to visit.
The Studio

In the studio, I can make art of my very own.

There are art supplies in the Studio.

It is okay if I get messy here. There are smocks that I can wear.

The room has sinks for me to wash my hands.

Sometimes the Museum gets noisy.

If I need a break, there is a Quiet Room that we can visit in the Studio.

The Quiet Room has pillows and a sofa where we can relax or read a book.
MAKESHOP

In MAKESHOP, I can make and explore with many kinds of materials.

I can use real tools.

I can practice building, balancing, attaching, and stacking in the carpeted area.

There are many projects, materials, and tools to see in MAKESHOP. I can ask questions to find out how to use them or how they were made.

Some things may only be for looking, not touching. I can use the materials and tools set out for the day.

There are workers who can answer my questions and help me make something.

The activities in MAKESHOP are always changing. My adult can check the Museum website to find out if there are special activities on the day of my visit.

MAKESHOP can be noisy. I can read a book on the grey carpet if it gets too loud.
The Attic

In the Attic I can see collections of things, play with bouncing balls, and walk through the Gravity Room to go down the slides.

The floor in the Gravity Room is slanted. It makes some people feel very dizzy. I can bring my adult with me in the room.

I might have to wait my turn to enter the Gravity Room. I can take a slide to leave the Gravity Room.

The slide is very fast and I will go down on my bottom with my feet first. I can walk down the stairs if I want to.

Under the gravity room, there is a Shadow Room that is very dark. I do not have to go in if I do not want to.

There is a strobe light in a mirror in the Curiosity Cabinet. The strobe light only flashes when someone pushes the red button. This button will be covered during Sensory Friendly Tuesday Afternoons.

Images of the puppets in the display case will imitate what I do when I stand on the green footprints. I can choose a different puppet by standing on the purple footprints and waving my arm to turn the wheel.

The hallways are full of other exhibits. Some have moving lights and others sound. “Shy Lights” will move when I walk on the white dots. “Lake Light” makes sound as ping pong balls move through tubes of light.
The Garage

The Garage is a very large room with a high domed ceiling. It may be noisy in the Garage.

I can ask my adult to take me to a quiet place if it is too noisy.

There are large metal ramps with magnetic tracks that I can roll a small car down.

I can crank a parachute to the top of the dome and watch it fall down.

I may have to wait to take a turn for the cars or the parachute.

There’s 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. The track leads the ball back to the pulley where it started.

I can climb up a high rope ladder. My adult can help me. I can slide down a very fast and twisty slide or I can come down the stairs. The rope ladder can only be used for going up.
The Nursery

The Nursery is a place where I can do many things with my hands.

I can go to the train station and use my hands to move the trains around the track. I have to wait my turn.

I can build with blocks.

I can use my hands to explore at the blue bead table.

I can use my hands to play at the sand table.

If I do not want to touch the blue beads or sand with my hands, that is okay. There are other toys I can use.

There are three black panels with holes that I can put colorful pegs into. The pegs will light up, just like a big Lite-Brite.

If it is too noisy, there are quiet places in the Nursery where I can sit and relax and read a book.
Waterplay

In Waterplay I can play with water and ice.

When I get to the Waterplay area, I can put on a smock. The smock will help keep my clothes dry.

I will only put my hands in the water.

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

Sometimes people get wet, and there are blow dryers they can use to dry off. These blowers make a loud noise. Usually they don’t stay on very long.

There is ice I can play with at a table. The ice crusher makes a loud noise. Before the staff person starts the ice crusher they will tell everybody so they can cover their ears if they want to. I can ask the staff person if I want to borrow a set of headphones.

There's a sink with running water that has a camera that lights up a small screen.

Water comes out of the center of the Water Wheel in a big gush!

There’s a cozy corner where I can go if I want a place to just relax.
The Theater

In the Theater, I can watch a show or perform my own show.

When I watch a show, they will make the room darker.

I can sit on the floor or in the seats.

I can make my own show up on the stage.

I can try on costumes and wear them for my show.
The Backyard (seasonal)

The backyard is outside. If the weather is bad, I might not be able to play there.

When I get out there, I can swing on a musical swing set.

I can play in a large sandbox with other kids. I might get sand on me, but I can brush it off.

In the backyard, I can also play in water and mud.

There are aprons that I can use if I want to cover my clothes.

The mud will feel wet and cool.

If I do not like it, there is a place where I can wash it off.