

PROPERTY OF KOHL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM • PLEASE RETURN TO TICKETING DESK

PARENT'S GUIDE TO

KOHL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

OF GREATER CHICAGO



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Family Guide to Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago

Welcome to Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago! This guide was designed to help you best enjoy the museum’s 17 interactive exhibits. It was a collaborative effort between Kohl Children’s Museum’s Education Department and Pathways.org, a not for profit foundation dedicated to providing free resources on the benefits of early detection and early intervention for children’s motor, sensory, play, and communication development.

Museum Accessibility

We think it's important that the Museum be equally available to guests with any level of physical, visual, auditory, or cognitive ability. All public areas are 100% ADA-compliant. The facility and all exhibits have been designed using the principles of universal design, which go beyond accessibility with an approach that uses multi-sensory experiences as educational tools. These experiences allow all guests with any level of physical, visual, auditory, and cognitive ability to experience the Museum and its offerings.

Universal design simplifies life for everyone by making products, communications, and elements of the Museum's spatial environment easier to use for every child. Special attention has been paid to such aspects as labels and signage, accessible routes, and positioning of interactive elements that will enhance the Museum experience for everyone.

Helpful Tips

As parents and caregivers, you know your child's likes and dislikes and levels of tolerance for waiting, being close to other children and interacting with different sensory information. We hope you use this guide to inform the choices you and your family make during your visit to the museum.

Exhibits may need different levels of assistance based on the age and exploration abilities of your child. Our goal is to provide an educational play environment where you and your child can play together so feel free to join in the fun!



As you go through the museum, you may find some exhibits more crowded than others. We encourage you to check back later during your visit as the flow of visitors changes continually.

The following icons are assigned to exhibits as primary indicators of exhibit experiences:



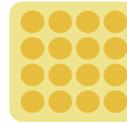
• Pretend Play



• Hand Skills



• Sounds



• Tactile



• Movement



• Cause and Effect

Turtle Rock

As you enter the museum, watch our turtles swim, eat and play in their enclosed habitat.



Adventures in Art

Child directed hands-on art exploration with paint, clay, textiles and recycled materials. Monthly programming focuses on specific art concepts, but the activities are always open ended to promote creativity.

- Eye hand skills
- Tactile experiences



All About Me



Children explore their bodies by interacting with voice recorders, a scale, height charts, cameras and face paints. A fun feature of this exhibit is “Pinpressions”, where a child can make impressions of part or all of their body.

- Movement
- Touch
- Sound
- Sight



Baby Nursery

Children role play with baby dolls as doctors, nurses and caregivers.

- Imaginative/pretend play
- Sequencing of steps
- Early literacy skills
- Hand skills



Car Care



Children explore cars via play and learning experiences focusing on car repair, play with toy cars and ramps, and a child size car wash to walk through, complete with realistic car wash sounds and sensations.

- Eye hand skills
- Cause and effect
- Imaginative/pretend play



City on the Move



This exhibit features a variety of science, math and technology-based activities to explore using the Chicago cityscape as a backdrop. Children navigate trains around a track and can “drive” a child size train engine.

- Eye hand skills
- Cause and effect
- Large exhibit allowing more freedom of movement
- Ample seating for children and caregivers



Cooperation Station



Children can use their hands and feet to make exhibit items move or groups of children can cooperate to have a larger effect.

- Teamwork
- Cause and effect
- Movement
- Hand skills



Habitat Park

This exhibit provides many outdoor opportunities, including moving through a grass maze, running up and down a grassy hill, participating in gardening, climbing on playground equipment and touching sculptures. This is a weather-dependent exhibit.

- Movement
- Coordination
- Sensory
- Balance
- Exploration
- Tactile



Hands On House



Children can decorate the interior and exterior of the house with items such as wallpaper tiles, paint brushes, and foam siding panels. A large conveyor belt provides an opportunity for children to cooperate to move bean bags up to the roof and down again. The small backyard area is typically a quiet space that includes a camouflage activity and an area to “dig” for bugs.



- Strengthening muscles
- Hand skills
- Teamwork
- Cause and effect



Nature Explorers

Children can step, hop or create a sequence of movements across a pretend pond or they can take a break to read a book about nature or play with puppets in the hollowed out tree.



- Balance
- Movement
- Sequencing of steps
- Early literacy skills
- Pretend play



Pet Vet



Children role play various activities at a veterinarian's office.

- Imaginative/pretend play
- Eye hand skills
- Empathy
- Communication



Play Café

Children assume various roles in a restaurant setting, such as taking orders, making meals, serving customers, and cleaning the kitchen.

- Imaginative/pretend play
- Eye hand skills
- Sequencing of steps
- Early literacy skills
- Communication



Powered By Nature



Children explore the concepts of renewable energy through interactive and computerized exhibits.

- Cause and Effect
- Experimentation
- Hand skills



Ravinia Festival Music Makers



Children explore the science of vibration and sound in a space filled with many opportunities to create and experience music, including experimenting with drums and cymbals in the jam room and dancing to multicultural music in the recollections room.

- Sound
- Touch
- Sight
- Movement
- Cause and effect
- Experimentation



Sheridan's Books and Crannies



Children and their caregivers will find many cozy spaces to read together. A small stage area is designed to create or act out stories. The exhibit is multi-level, providing quiet reading nooks and interactive wall activities close to the ground or on the second level.

- Early literacy skills
- Listening
- Eye hand skills



Water Works

Children explore the properties of water through sound, touch and sight. Smocks are provided, but expect to get wet!

- Cause and effect
- Touch
- Visual tracking
- Hand strength



Whole Foods



Children engage in various role play opportunities within a grocery store setting. Access to Whole Foods may require waiting in line.



- Imaginative/pretend play
- Eye hand skills
- Sequencing of steps
- Early literacy skills
- Communication

