how we play

A guide to enjoying the Museum
Mission and Guidelines for Play
Our mission at the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus is to create extraordinary experiences that champion the wonder and joy of childhood. We have guidelines to provide a safe environment for learning and having fun. They are posted throughout the Museum and are detailed below:

▲ Children and adults must stay together.
▲ Adults are responsible for the supervision of children at all times.
▲ Please, no food or drinks in the exhibits.
▲ Shoes are required in the Museum (outside the Center for the Young Child).
▲ Treat other guests and Museum materials with kindness and respect.
▲ And above all, have fun!

A Comfortable Stay
The Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico has partnered with several local organizations including Spectra Autism Centers of Colorado and Anchor Center for Blind Children to develop a guide to help you navigate our facility and get the most out of your visit. This guide is designed to assist your family in planning your time at the Museum. The following tools are available to you at the front desk and on our website:

▲ A Museum guide that includes pictures and details the types of things to expect in our exhibits.
▲ A Museum schedule board that is available for customization upon your arrival.
▲ A Museum map.
▲ A noise meter for each exhibit and room in our Museum.

Training
Our education staff receives ongoing training to supplement and improve the time all families spend in our Museum. Daily educational programs and StoryTimes are designed for inclusion.

Tours
Families desiring a tour from an education staff member should contact our School Program Manager, Traci McGrath, at tracim@cmdenver.org or 303-561-0108. Tours must be scheduled one week in advance and are dependent upon the availability of staff.

Quiet Times
Times when the Museum tends to be less busy include Mondays from 9 am to 4 pm and Wednesdays from 4 to 7:30 pm.
my visit today

Today I will visit the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus. There are many exciting things to do and see at the Children’s Museum. I will have many choices about what toys I want to play with and what activities I want to do. When we arrive, I will need to wait for an adult to pay. Then it will be time for us to explore the Museum! I need to remember to stay with an adult when I explore the Museum.

There are many different rooms at the Museum. These rooms are called exhibits. An exhibit is a room where I can play and learn. I need to remember to share all of the toys and activities in the exhibits with other children. The people who work at the Children’s Museum are very nice. They can help me if I need something. They all wear black lanyards around their necks, and have green or grey shirts.

While I am visiting the Children’s Museum, I must follow four important rules:

1. I need to stay with an adult.
2. I need to walk. If I run, I can hurt myself or others.
3. I need to take turns with other children.
4. I can have fun!

If I want to turn the page, I can see and read about the different exhibits in the Children’s Museum. I can choose where I want to go. I have to stay with an adult.
helpful icons

- **Messy Alert**
  This indicates the exhibit can be messy, and may require some level of clean up after play.

- **Baby-friendly**
  This indicates the exhibit is suitable for babies and young children, newborn through age three.

- **Sharing Space**
  This indicates the exhibit requires children share toys and tools while they play.

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**Noise Level (Decibel)**

86 dB
Sounds like:
City Traffic (inside car)

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*These are based on average readings and they could vary depending on the time of day.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>altitude</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>box canyon</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>art studio</td>
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<td>assembly plant</td>
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<td>book nook</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>big backyard</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>bubbles</td>
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<td>campsite</td>
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<td>center for the young child</td>
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<td>energy</td>
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<td>fire station no. 1</td>
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<td>joy park</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>kinetics!</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>my market</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>nest</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>ready vet go!</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>teaching kitchen</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>village of healthy smiles</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>water</td>
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I can climb up to the top of the Museum in this exhibit. I have to put on a helmet to protect my head and wear a card on my shirt. If I want, my adult can go with me. There are lots of other kids in this exhibit so I should be sure to watch where I am going. I need to remember my walking feet so that I do not get hurt. I can climb down at any point. I have to remember that this is a small space. If I get stuck I can ask a Museum staff member for help.

Must be 40” tall to climb.

86 dB
Sounds like: City Traffic (inside car)
If I am too small to go into Altitude, the big climber, I can come climb here. I can climb through different boxes or try balancing in the kayak. There is also a wall of fog that I can walk through. My parents will be close by if I get stuck and need help. I have to remember to watch where I am going because there are other kids in this small space.

AGES 1-4

89 dB
Sounds like: Train Whistle or Truck Traffic
I can paint in this exhibit or play with clay. I can also make a craft with scissors, paper and glue at the project table. There is a smock I can wear if I don’t want to get my clothes dirty. There are many different colors I can paint with. If my hands get dirty I can wash them in the sink that is just my size. If I want to paint with other kids I can draw on the windows with special crayons or on the big bison. I have to let my paintings dry but if I am in a hurry I can put them inside of the dryer. I should ask my adult for help with this so I stay safe.
In this exhibit I can be creative. I get to work with real tools to create a project. I can follow the directions written on one of the blueprints or I can create something on my own. I need to stay safe and work with my adult. I should start by putting on my plastic safety glasses so I don’t get anything in my eyes. I can use different materials like cardboard, plastic water bottles, wood and egg cartons to make projects like helicopters, spiders or robots. I need to remember to pick up all my trash and put away all my tools so that the next kid can build just like I did. When I am in this exhibit it may be loud so if it is too loud I should ask my adult to go to another exhibit.

AGES 4-8

95 dB
Sounds like: Jack Hammer
This is a very quiet exhibit where I can put on a puppet show, or take a break and read a book. There are many different books that I can read. If I am just learning to read I can find a small book but if I already know how to read I can find a bigger book. There are all kinds of books that will be just right for me. Sometimes when I go to the Museum there might be a staff member reading stories. If I want I can sit and listen to their stories.

75 dB
Sounds like: Conversation (3 ft away)
In this exhibit everything is very big just like it would be if I was a bug or animal. There are nests, tunnels and an ant hill for me to play in just like the backyard. If I want, I can put on an animal costume to dress up like an ant, rabbit or even a squirrel. I can climb into the ant hill and go through the tunnels. I need to watch out because this is a small space and lots of other kids like to play here too. I should use my walking feet because it is a little dark. When I am done playing I need to put my costume back on the hook so it is ready for the next kid.

89 dB
Sounds like: Train Whistle or Truck Traffic

AGES 2-5
In here I can make big bubbles with rings, or create a wall of bubbles around me. This exhibit is a little wet so if I want I can put a lab coat to keep my clothes dry. I will be making bubbles with soap so I should put on the plastic glasses to keep the soap out of my eyes. I need to remember to use my walking feet because the floor may be slippery. Lots of friends like to play in here so it may be crowded. I will have to wait my turn to play sometimes. If it is too crowded I can ask my adult to go to a different exhibit. When I am finished I can wash my hands in the sink that is just my size.

89 dB
Sounds like: Train Whistle or Truck Traffic
I can pretend that I am camping here. If I want I can put on a fisherman’s jacket. I can put different animals around the campsite. I can also practice tying a knot with a rope. If I have trouble I can ask my adult for help. I can also play inside of the tent with my friends. There is always a lot going on around this exhibit so if I want to take a break I just need to ask my adult.

87 dB
Sounds like: City Traffic (inside car)

AGES 2-6
This exhibit is for babies and kids ages 1, 2 and 3. I can go in this exhibit if I am a young child or if I want to be a big kid helper for my brother or sister. If I go in this exhibit I have to take off my shoes so that I don’t step on anyone’s feet or fingers. This exhibit has lots of soft toys and places for babies and young children to crawl or learn to walk. If I am in here I need to make sure I watch out for little kids on the floor. I need to remember to use my walking feet so everyone stays safe.

AGES
NEWBORN - 3

84 dB
Sounds like: City Traffic (inside car)
This exhibit has a lot to do! The walls are high and I have to move through a maze. I can pick up tubes and find energy balls inside of them. Once I find energy balls I can take them to the hot air balloon and watch it take off. I can make a rocket with the help of my grown up. I can try on different wings or capes when the fan is on and see what it feels like to fly. If this exhibit is too loud I can ask my grown up to leave and go to a quieter place. If I want to stay, I can ask a staff member from the Museum to borrow a pair of headphones to make it quieter.

92 dB
Sounds like: Train Whistle or Truck Traffic

AGES 3+
When I walk into this exhibit I will see a big fire truck that has lights and sirens. I can press buttons that make sounds. This exhibit looks like a fire house so I can also put on a firefighter’s jacket and hat. I can practice how to call 911 and learn what I should do in a fire. I can lay down on the bed and pretend to be a firefighter. I can also go down the firepole like the firefighter would. If the sirens are too loud for me I can ask to go to a different exhibit.

AGES 2-5

97 dB
Sounds like:
Jack Hammer
If I want to play outside I should go to this exhibit. Outside I can play in the sand, or in the hay truck. During the summer I can also play in the water. I can take a ride on the zip line. If I can’t get on by myself, I might need to ask my adult for help. I need to remember to take turns with other kids in line to ride the zipline. I can also build a fort or lay on the hammock. If I get too hot or cold I can ask my adult to go back inside.

78 dB
Sounds like: Telephone Dial Tone
In this exhibit I can be a scientist. I can learn about movement and motion with balls, ramps and rollers. If I want, I can build a mini-roller coaster. I need to remember to share the balls and tracks with other kids. I should use my walking feet because there are a lot of bright orange balls on the ground that I could trip on. When there are enough balls in the bin a siren goes off and the balls drop to the floor. If the siren is too loud for me I should ask my adult to go somewhere a little quieter.

97 dB
Sounds like: Jack Hammer
In this exhibit I can pretend to go to the market. There are lots of fruits and vegetables for me to choose from as well as milk and cheese. When I am at the market I can use a basket to gather my food or I can go behind the counter and pretend to sell the food. Once I have all my food I can go into the pretend kitchen and make something. I can follow one of the recipes that are next to the oven. This will tell me what food I need and how to make it. When I am all done playing here, I need to remember to put away my toys in the right bins so my next friend can play with them too.

90 dB
Sounds like: Train Whistle or Truck Traffic
If I need to go to a quiet place I can go here. I can sit and read a book or look at the fish. It is very quiet in here so I should use my whisper voice. There are pillows on the floor that I can lay on and take a rest. There is also a hammock that I can sit in and swing from. When I am ready to go back to playing in the Museum I should tell my adult.

64 dB
Sounds like:
Quiet Library
In this exhibit I can pretend that I am a veterinarian. I can put on a coat and stethoscope to be ready to help the pretend animals. There are many toys to play with in this exhibit, including an x-ray machine for animals and different doctor tools. Sometimes when I come to the Museum this exhibit is not open, so I may want to find another room to play in if it is closed. I need to remember to share the animals with other kids so that everyone gets a turn.
If I want to go to a class in the kitchen I need to ask my adult to sign us up. In the kitchen I can learn how to make different foods by following a recipe. I have to work with my adult and remember to ask before I eat anything. It is important to follow the rules in the kitchen so that I stay safe.

93 dB
Sounds like: Motorcycle
In this exhibit I can pretend to be a dentist or a tooth fairy. I can put on a doctor’s coat or wings. If I want I can learn how to brush my teeth. There are tools that I can play with just like a real dentist. I can also build a tooth castle. If I need to take a break I can read a book on the bean bags.

AGES
NEWBORN - 3

85 dB
Sounds like: City Traffic (inside a car)
This exhibit shows me how water moves, and I can touch and watch it. I can put on a rain jacket so that I do not get my clothes wet. I can put balls into a water tornado or I can fill buckets to shoot water in the air. I can also put boats or ducks in the river and watch them go down. I should remember to use my walking feet because the floor can be slippery. This exhibit can be loud so I should ask my grown up if I want to go to a quieter place.

ALL AGES

98 dB
Sounds like: Motorcycle