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## **CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL STUDENT VISIT SEASON**

*Museum served more than 36,000 students and educators*

June 6, 2011 (Chicago, IL) – As the school year comes to a close, so does Chicago Children's Museum's (CCM) student-visit season. On Friday, June 3, the last of the students from the 2010/11 school year came through the museum for student workshops. This year, CCM served a total of 36,788 students and educators from Chicago Public Schools and beyond.

"We're honored to play such a significant role in the lives of students and educators," said Chicago Children's Museum president and CEO Jennifer Farrington. "Our goal is to make sure all educators are aware of the depth of experiences we provide to students and teachers and the influence this programming has on the classroom curriculum."

Chicago Children's Museum offers a variety of ways for students, and the important adults in their lives, to experience hands-on, playful learning. All exhibits and education programs are aligned with Illinois State Learning Standards and are an ideal way to expand upon a themed unit in the classroom.

CCM's self-guided visits offer groups a chance to explore the entire museum at their own pace. Children can make meaningful connections and discoveries in any of the museum's exhibits and programming spaces. Exhibits include: *BIG Backyard*, *Inventing Lab*, *Skyline*, *WaterWays*, *Dinosaur Expedition*, *Kids Town*, *The Allstate Foundation Presents Play It Safe*, *Treehouse Trails*, and *the Kovler Family Climbing Schooner*.

Chicago Children's Museum goes beyond its walls to bring meaningful play and learning experiences to children all over Chicago. The museum's CCM To Go program brings play-based learning experiences directly to classrooms, daycare centers, homeless shelters and other community-based organizations through creative, interactive workshops. Individual and multisession workshops are facilitated by museum educators surround the arts, physical movement and STEM Learning. This year, CCM To Go reached nearly 1,000 students.

In addition, the museum offers professional development courses that provide opportunities for adults to gain practical tools to apply in their work with children. These workshops are tailored to each group's needs, and can take place at CCM, a classroom or a location of their choosing. Educators earn CPDUs or CDA hours. Teacher resources are available on the museum's website and include activities and lesson plans that can be implemented into any learning environment.

### **About Chicago Children's Museum**

The mission of Chicago Children's Museum is to create a community where play and learning connect. CCM is the only cultural institution in the city dedicated to young children and the important adults in their lives. Playful experiences--including over fifteen interactive exhibits--tap into how kids learn, and engage them at an early age so they develop a lifelong love of learning. Located at Navy Pier, Chicago's number one attraction at 700 East Grand Avenue, CCM is the final stop for CTA buses #29, #65, #66 and #124. For more information, please visit [www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/hours.html](http://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/hours.html).

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