Play For All!
at Chicago Children’s Museum

A partnership between The Autism Program of Illinois and Chicago Children’s Museum
Welcome to Chicago Children’s Museum!

Chicago Children’s Museum (CCM) has partnered with The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP) to develop a storybook museum guide that describes each of CCM’s exhibits.

TAP assists Chicago Children’s Museum in becoming an inclusive community, where play and learning connect for all children, by providing ongoing training for all of CCM’s staff. To learn more about the services TAP provides, please read the information in the box below.

With the rate of children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) rising to an alarming 1 in 88, people are searching for answers to this condition. More children will be diagnosed with an ASD than AIDS, cancer, and diabetes combined. That’s why, in 2003, The Hope Institute for Children and Families led the development of The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP). TAP is a statewide network that not only helps families affected with ASD, but also trains educators and links healthcare providers and others to better understand, communicate with, and support children diagnosed with an ASD.

With more than 30 participating community agencies and universities located throughout Illinois, the TAP Service Network is the largest statewide network of care in the nation for the diagnosis, treatment and support for children with an ASD. TAP offers local programs and services based on best practice standards and current research, impacting more than 16,000 families each year. Network partners offer families local access to resources, innovative services and supports to better understand and inform others about ASDs.

For additional information, please visit www.theautismprogram.org.
My Trip to Chicago Children’s Museum

I am going to Chicago Children’s Museum. Chicago Children’s Museum is so much fun. I can play with many different toys and activities. When I get to the museum, I will have to wait for an adult to pay. After we are finished paying, I can hang my coat in the closet. Then it will be time for me to explore the museum! I need to remember to stay with an adult when I am exploring the museum.

There are so many exhibits at Chicago Children’s Museum. An exhibit is a room that has a lot of activities about one topic. I can try to play with these fun activities in the exhibits. When I am playing in an exhibit, I need to remember to share all of the activities with the other children. It is important to walk from one exhibit to the next. The people who work at Chicago Children’s Museum walk around the exhibits to make sure everyone is safe. If I need help, I should ask one of the workers wearing a red Chicago Children’s Museum shirt.

While I am visiting Chicago Children’s Museum, I must follow three important rules:
1. I need to stay with an adult.
2. I cannot run.
3. I need to take turns with the other children.

I can have lots of fun playing and learning at Chicago Children’s Museum! If I want, I can continue reading to learn more about each of the exhibits I can see at Chicago Children’s Museum.
An Inclusive Guide to Chicago Children’s Museum

This story will tell me what I will see when I visit Chicago Children’s Museum. Each page will tell me about a different exhibit space in the museum.

I can choose where I want to go. I have to stay with an adult!
This exhibit is called **Crown Gallery**.

This exhibit may be different every time I visit Chicago Children’s Museum. Inside this exhibit, there will be new things for me to try. If I like this exhibit, I can stay and play.
This exhibit looks like a firehouse. Inside I can learn how to be safe at home. I can try to press buttons and practice talking on the phone. I can dress up like a firefighter. There is a fire truck next to the firehouse. It does not work anymore. I can sit in the driver’s seat and pretend to drive.

This exhibit is called **Play It Safe.**
This exhibit is called the **Schooner**.

This exhibit looks like a giant boat. I can try to climb the ropes if I want. I have to wait in a straight line until I am told that it is my turn. I can smile if I like climbing the ropes!
This exhibit is called Skyline.

In Skyline, I can try to build a house or table or chair. There are wood pieces and metal nuts and bolts to use. I can try to build anything I want. I can wear a safety hat and glasses if I want. I must be careful when I am building. There will be other kids building, too!
This exhibit is called **WaterWays**.

There is water in this exhibit. If I want, I can wear a raincoat. My hands might get wet. It is OK to get a little bit wet. I can build a fountain, I can fill the buckets with water, too! I will not climb into the water. I can just watch if I don’t want to get wet.
This exhibit is called Michael’s Museum.

Michael’s Museum has lots of small items. I can use the magnifiers and rulers to look at them and measure the objects. Also, I can make my own exhibit by moving things around and putting them on shelves.
This exhibit is called The Great Hall.

In The Great Hall, there may be many games. I can choose to play checkers or play with the big chess pieces. The Great Hall can be a noisy place. Sometimes there are special programs or dance performances in The Great Hall. If I don’t want to participate, I can say ‘No.’
This exhibit is called **Dinosaur Expedition.**

In this exhibit, I can dig for dinosaur bones if I want. They are not real bones and they do not come out of the ground. I can sit and walk on the brown ground. It will not get me dirty. I can try to dig to uncover the bones.
This exhibit is called Tinkering Lab.

In Tinkering Lab, I can design, build, take stuff apart and test my creations. If something doesn’t work I try again and again. The tools and materials that I can use may be different every time I visit. This is a REAL lab so I need to pay attention and wear eye protection when using the tools. Tinkering Lab can be a noisy place.
This exhibit is called **Kids Town**.

In Kids Town, I can pretend to drive a car or a small CTA bus. There is a grocery store and kitchen where I can try to put food in a shopping cart and pretend to cook my food. I have to watch out for kids who are smaller than me!
This exhibit is called **Treehouse Trails**.

This exhibit looks like I am standing in a forest. There are pretend trees and I can listen for noises that sound like chirping birds. I can try to catch pretend fish in a stream. There is a climbing space in the back. I can try to climb, but I have to be very careful! I have to watch out for kids who are smaller than me.
This exhibit is called **Pritzker Playspace**.

Pritzker Playspace is a room for babies, toddlers and preschoolers, but I can go in to have a break from the museum. The Playspace is not open all day. I will need to check the times it is open when I arrive. There are toys and books I can use. Also, I can sit and relax. The activities in this room change, so it may not look the same all of the time.
I will remember to follow the rules when I visit Chicago Children’s Museum.

I have to stay with an adult. I have to walk and use my quiet voice. I also have to take turns with the other kids.
I have learned all about Chicago Children’s Museum. If I have a question or if I get lost at Chicago Children’s Museum, the museum staff wearing the red shirts can help me. I can try to have lots of fun at Chicago Children’s Museum!

Chicago Children’s Museum
ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org
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