



Educators Guide to Exhibits

Chicago Children's Museum's mission is to improve children's lives by creating a community where play and learning connect.

Through hands-on, child directed, authentic learning experiences, Chicago Children's Museum supports the development of the whole child, encompassing the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical domains--critical for young children.

Cognitive

At Chicago Children's Museum children invent solutions to problems, learn new language, and use critical thinking skills in our diverse exhibits and experiences.

Social

Chicago Children's Museum offers opportunities for children to communicate and collaborate with each other to create and build, make decisions, and resolve conflicts effectively.

Emotional

Children develop confidence as they complete challenges, express themselves, and discover the joy of creating while exploring Chicago Children's Museum's unique environment.

Physical

Children move, dance and twirl at Chicago Children's Museum. The museum's exhibits are intentionally designed to foster movement and physical play.

This guide is a tool to help you plan for your field trip to Chicago Children's Museum. Each description of the museum's permanent exhibit is followed by the most relevant connections to Illinois Learning Standards and Common Core State Standards.

Chicago Children's Museum's Student and Educator Programs are part of the Karen Harrison Student Connections Program.

How to Use this Guide

Every exhibit at Chicago Children’s Museum promotes children’s physical development and facilitates social and emotional learning; therefore, the Physical Development and Health and Social/Emotional standards listed are only for exhibits that focus on those particular domains of development.

Use this guide to:

- Learn how the exhibits at the museum are aligned to state and national learning standards.
- Find out which exhibits may relate to your curriculum or learning goals.
- Decide which exhibits you would like to focus on during your trip to the museum.
- Share details with your principal about the experiences your students will have on their field trip.
- Provide more information for students and adult chaperones about what they will be learning and experiencing on their field trip to the museum.

Permanent Exhibits

Dinosaur Expedition

In this exhibit, children can dig for bones in the excavation pit and learn what it's like to be a real paleontologist. The exhibit is a re-creation of the 1997 Saharan expedition that unearthed *Suchomimus*, a new species of dinosaur.

Prekindergarten

Language Arts

5.A.EC Seek answers to questions through active exploration.

Science

11.A.ECa Use senses to explore and observe materials.

Kindergarten-Third grade

Science

11.A.1b Develop questions on scientific topics.

Kids Town

In this child-sized cityscape children can explore a grocery store, a CTA bus, gas station, and construction site. Designed especially for early learners (age 5 and younger), this space promotes role-playing, problem solving, and emerging literacy skills.

Prekindergarten

Language Arts

5.A.EC Seek answers to questions through active exploration.

Science

11.A.ECa Use senses to explore and observe materials.

Kindergarten

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.K.4 Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.

CCSS for Mathematics

K.MD.B.3 Classify objects into given categories.

Permanent Exhibits

Kovler Family Climbing Schooner

This is an exciting physical and mental challenge in which children can scale three stories of ship-shape rigging, from cargo hold to crow's nest. Friendly staff is here to help climbers.

Kindergarten-Third grade

The focus of the climbing schooner is on developing physical skills, so we have listed the most relevant Physical Development and Health standards for this experience.

Physical Development and Health

- 19.A.1 Demonstrate control when performing fundamental locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills.
 - 19.C.1 Demonstrate safe movement in physical activities.
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Michael's Museum

Children can ask questions and tell stories as they observe nearly 100 collections of tiny objects, use magnifiers and rulers to gain new perspectives, sort and organize hundreds of tiny treasures, and act as "curators" of their own displays on open case shelves. This exhibit fosters the art of collecting and includes miniatures, trinkets, artifacts and curiosities donated by founder and curator Michael Horvich.

Prekindergarten

Language Arts

- 5.A.EC Seek answers to questions through active exploration.

Mathematics

- 8.A.EC Sort and classify objects by a variety of properties.

Kindergarten

CCSS for English Language Arts

- SL.K.4 Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.

CCSS for Mathematics

- K.MD.B.3 Classify objects and count the number in each category.

Permanent Exhibits

Michael's Museum, continued

First Grade

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.1.4 Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.

Second Grade

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.2.4 Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details.

Third Grade

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.3.4 Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details.

Permanent Exhibits

The Allstate Foundation presents Play It Safe

In this exhibit, developed in partnership with the Chicago Fire Department, children learn fire safety skills as they try on authentic firefighter gear, slide down the fire station pole, drive the truck, and practice escaping from a smoke-filled bedroom.

Prekindergarten

Social Sciences

- 14.A.EC Recognize the reasons for rules.
- 15.A.EC Identify community workers and the services they provide.

Kindergarten - Third Grade

Social Sciences

- 14.C.1 Identify concepts of responsible citizenship.
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Skyline

Children collaborate to design and build their own one-of-a-kind structure using wooden struts, real tools, and authentic construction gear. Children can also take the Skyscraper Challenge to record themselves at work and tell the story of their skyscraper. Children can later access their photographs and recorded story online to share with classmates or parents.

Prekindergarten

Mathematics

- 9.A.EC Recognize geometric shapes and structures in the environment.

Science

- 11.A.ECa Uses senses to explore and observe materials and natural phenomena.

Kindergarten - Third Grade

Science

- 11.B.1a-e (a) Given a simple design problem, formulate possible solutions. (b) Design a device that will be useful in solving the problem. (c) Build the device using the materials and tools provided. (d) Test the device and record results. (e) Report the design, test, and results.

Permanent Exhibits

Skyline, continued

Kindergarten

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.K.4 Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.

CCSS for Mathematics

K.G.B.5 Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components.

First Grade

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.1.4 Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.

Second Grade

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.2.4 Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details.

Third Grade

CCSS for English Language Arts

SL.3.4 Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

Permanent Exhibits

Tinkering Lab

Upon entering Chicago's first DIY maker-space, families will have the ultimate workshop experience. You'll find all the space and freedom you need to create. We provide real tools and real materials—you decide what to do next!

Prekindergarten

Language Arts

5.A.EC Seek answers to questions through active exploration.

Kindergarten-Third Grade

11.B.1a Given a simple design problem, formulate possible solutions.

11.B.1b Design a device that will be useful in solving the problem.

11.B.1c Build the device using the materials and tools provided.

12.C.1b Compare large-scale physical properties of matter.

12.D.1b Identify observable forces in nature (e.g. pushes, pulls, gravity, magnetism).

Treehouse Trails

Young children (ages 5 and younger) can camp, climb, burrow, and pretend in this enchanted forest setting. They can canoe and fish in the blue river, splash in a mountain waterfall, build a fort under the tree house, and serve a stew in the log cabin.

Prekindergarten

Language Arts

5.A.EC Seek answers to questions through active exploration.

Science

11.A.ECa Uses senses to explore and observe materials.

Kindergarten

CCSS.ELA-Literacy

SL.K.4 Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.

Permanent Exhibits

WaterWays

Children explore the power of water using an interactive system of pulleys, wheels, and pipes to navigate their boat through the mighty river. In this exhibit children can also exercise their creativity by painting on stone surfaces with water.

Prekindergarten

Science

11.A.ECa Uses senses to explore and observe materials and natural phenomena.

Fine Arts

26.B.EC Uses creative arts as an avenue for self-expression.

Kindergarten-Third Grade

Science

Goal 12.D.1a Identify examples of motion.

Fine Arts

26.B.1d Demonstrate knowledge and skills to create visual works of art using manipulation, eye-hand coordination, building, and imagination.