



Contact: Natalie Kreiger
219.983.2577 (mobile)
NatalieK@ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org

For Immediate Release

**CHICAGO CHILDRENS MUSEUM ANNOUNCES
DANGER 101: DARING DEEDS FOR CURIOUS KIDS**

"Danger done right" this summer at CCM with thrilling activities for children and families

CHICAGO, June 1, 2014 – This summer, Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) will give kids the opportunity to get a little daring and dangerous with *Danger 101: Daring Deeds for Curious Kids*, open now at CCM.

When we think back to our childhoods, chances are, we remember climbing trees, using Dad's drill in the garage or even melting our brother's action figures. We did these things without a second thought, and though they may have been a little risky, we lived to tell about it.

This all-new experience invites children to decide if they want to participate. Why? Because CCM wants kids to gain a sense of achievement and a heightened awareness of danger, risk and (of course) safety through rope swings, experiments with heat and real power tools—and it's going to be fun!

The can't-miss piece of *Danger 101* is the *Human Wrecking Ball*. This component has children stack a tower of beans bags as high as they can, then climb a platform onto a huge rope suspended 30 feet from the ceiling of the museum's Great Hall and swing into the pile, sending it crashing to the floor. Adults can play too—the rope holds up to 500 pounds! The Wrecking Ball is open to visitors through June and July. Other programs in June include *Sizzle and Kaboom*, where families can discover just what happens when different objects (like pop cans) get too hot. At the *Daredevil Café*, the especially daring ones can eat toasted ants, bite into oddly iridescent worms and take their chances with mystery candy! And in *Handle with Care*, kids can use real tools—hammers, saws and power drills—to explore what they do and how to use them safely.

"This experience is about allowing kids to test their own limits through thrilling and exciting activities," said CCM President and CEO Jennifer Farrington. "There's a sense of accomplishment and pride when kids choose to do something they find a bit scary. Their caregivers can relax knowing this is all happening in a safe, supportive setting."

-more-

In 2011, after hearing him speak at a TEDx conference, Farrington met Gever Tulley—a writer, computer scientist and founder of Brightworks School and [Tinkering School](#), and an exciting partnership began. Using Tulley’s book, *50 Dangerous Things You Should Let Your Kids Do*, the museum identified a few favorites and let those serve as the inspiration for this new experience. These included: swinging on a rope swing, playing with a vacuum cleaner and deconstructing an appliance, to name a few.

“Creativity, in all walks of life, comes from bravery and confidence - characteristics of those who have faced some danger in their lives,” said Tulley. “We should diligently prevent the serious injury while we allow children to collect the bumps, scrapes, and bruises of an enthusiastic childhood. There is no learning without some element of risk. Life is complicated and interesting, why would we expect otherwise?”

Exposing children to “good” danger

Exploring what is dangerous presents the opportunity for children to learn safety and responsibility. *Danger 101* lets kids do things they wouldn’t necessarily get to do at home—unless there’s a gigantic rope swing in the middle of their living room. The museum’s objective in presenting kids with “good danger” is to provide them the opportunity to take risks and master those challenges in developmentally-appropriate ways.

“When children are permitted to play freely, without influence or interference from their caregivers, only then can they truly discover what they’re capable of,” said Farrington. “We’ve provided these activities, but it’s ultimately up to the children to decide to what degree and what pace they will tackle each challenge.”

In the article, [Risky Play: Why Children Love It and Need It](#), Peter Gray, PhD, a research professor at Boston College, echoes this philosophy.

“Children are designed by nature to teach themselves emotional resilience by playing in risky, emotion-inducing ways,” Gray writes. “In the long run, we endanger them far more by preventing such play than by allowing it. And, we deprive them of fun.”

About Chicago Children’s Museum

The mission of Chicago Children's Museum is to improve children’s lives by creating 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 more than 15 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 E. Grand Ave., CCM is the final stop for CTA buses #29, #65, #66 and #124. For more information, please visit www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org.

###