Museum Stories

Presented by Please Touch Museum’s Play without Boundaries Program

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Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Please Touch Museum provides a welcoming learning environment for all children, and appreciates the challenges that a busy museum can present to families of children with autism.

Please Touch Museum’s Play without Boundaries was created to provide families with innovative tools to make a museum visit more comfortable and enjoyable. Our toolkit, available on our website and at the front desk, includes maps and museum stories, as well as specialized games and toys available in our Kids’ Store. Additionally, our staff is trained to interact with visitors of all ages and abilities, and are fully prepared to assist you during your visit.

We have developed a series of Museum Stories, designed to prepare parents and children for their visit. Each exhibit and area in the museum has its own story. You can mix and match the stories according to your preference. Have a wonderful visit!

Thank you for visiting Please Touch Museum!
I’m going to Please Touch Museum. Please Touch Museum can be very fun! I can play with many things at the museum, and I can touch and climb and explore.

The museum is very big. When I get inside, happy people in purple shirts will say hello. I will stand in line with my parents to buy tickets to the museum. We will wait for our turn. I walk into a great big hall, and see a sculpture made out of toys.

During my visit, I need to follow the museum manners:

1. I will use my walking feet
2. I will use my inside voice
3. I will stay with my grownup at all times
4. After I play, I will put the toys away.

I am going to see many things at Please Touch Museum. There are different activities to do in every area. Each area is called an exhibit. I can look at my map and decide which exhibit I want to go to next.
Roadside Attractions

In this exhibit, I see many things with wheels. I can pretend to drive the big SEPTA bus. Many people like to get on the bus. I may have to wait for my turn.

I see many different cars. Some are small, some are big! I can pretend to drive one of the cars if I want. I can pretend to pump gas at the gas station.

I can play on the backhoe. The backhoe picks up colorful balls from a ball pit. One of the happy people in purple shirts can help me use the machine.
City Capers

This exhibit looks like a small city. There are so many things to do!

I can play in the supermarket. The supermarket is a busy place. I can pick out some of my favorite foods and pretend I am shopping. When I have filled up my cart, I can play the matching game and put food back on the shelves.

I can play in the medical center. Doctors work in medical centers. I see baby dolls in cribs, and white coats for me to try on. I can play with the baby dolls. I can pretend to be a doctor. I can pretend with my friends. Doctors sometimes wear white coats.

I can play in the construction zone. The construction zone has a big truck. I can pretend to drive the truck. I can try on a tool belt and pretend to build a house.

I see a shoe store. I can try on different shoes and see if they fit my feet. Is my foot bigger or smaller than my grownup’s foot? Which foot is my left and which is my right?

I can play in the restaurant. I can go behind the counter and push the register’s buttons. I can make a hamburger with pieces of bread and meat and lettuce.

There is so much to do in City Capers!
River Adventures

There is lots of water in this exhibit! I can put my hands in the water and play with it.

I can put on a blue vest, if I want. It will help my clothes stay dry. If I get a little wet, I can dry myself on one of the hand dryers.

Do I see the trees and clouds? Can I find the rainbow and the sun?

I can play with the toy boats and rubber ducks. I can try to spin the wheel and change the current!
Wonderland

This exhibit is about an imaginary world. It has many mazes and mirrors and colors! I need to be very careful to stay with my adult in this area.

I see a big tall tree in the middle of the room. I can walk around the tree and find an opening. I can play with a tea set inside! Do I see the Mad Hatter?

I can walk through the hall of mirrors. I see my reflection everywhere. In some mirrors I look short and round. In other mirrors I look tall and skinny. If I don’t want to go in the hall, I can say “No”.

I see a room with many doors. When I walk in, the doors get smaller and smaller. Wonderland can be fun!
Flight Fantasy

In this exhibit, I can use my body to make things move!

I can turn the handles in the exhibit and see what happens. If I want, I can go inside a big wheel. When I start walking, the wheel will spin!

Flight fantasy has many lights and bright colors. If I don’t like the lights, I can tell my grownup. We can go to a different exhibit.

I can dress up as an astronaut and pretend that I am in Space!

I see a very tall rocket ship at the end of the room. I can build a rocket with colorful squishy pieces that are in middle of the room. Then I can take my rocketship to the blast-off station. When I push the blast-off button my rocketship flies across the room! I may have to wait my turn to blast-off my rocketship.
Program Room

In this area, I can make art!

I see tables with different art activities. I can try and do the activity if I want. My grownup can help me.

This area can be quiet. I can sit on the rug and play with blocks if I want. I might see someone come play a musical instrument in this area.

It’s ok if I get a little messy. I can wear an apron to keep my clothes clean. I can wash my hands in the sink when I am finished.
Theater

In the theater, I can watch actors pretending on the stage.

The theater show may change each time I come to Please Touch Museum. It may be a puppet show, or a musical performance.

When I’m in the theater, I sit on the steps with my grownup. The theater is dark. If I do not like the dark, I can ask my grownup to go outside.

If the actor on stage asks me a question, I can answer it if I want to.

I may also see people with puppets outside the theater. If I want, I can say hello to the puppet.
Walking Piano & Rainforest Rhythms

I see a big piano! I can walk on it if I want. It makes noise when I step on it! I can make music.

This exhibit looks like a Rainforest and has a lot of musical instruments. There's a giant snake and an elephant!

I can bang on drums, shake noise makers and listen to frogs croaking. If it’s too loud I can ask my adult to go leave.

Seasonal Exhibit

In winter, the museum has an Enchanted Village you can visit. There are lots of moving dolls and even a pretend cat that moves too!
Carousel

At Please Touch Museum, I might see the carousel. A carousel looks like a merry-go-round.

At the carousel, I see many colorful lights, and I hear music. I can ride the carousel if I want. I line up with my grownup next to the gate to wait our turn. Before we get on the carousel, a worker will remind us of the carousel rules.

I may give the worker a carousel ticket. Then I will choose an animal to ride. I see horses and pigs and rabbits and goats. Which animal will I choose? I must remember to use my walking feet.

The carousel will start spinning. My animal may go up and down! When the carousel is spinning, I must stay in my seat with my seatbelt buckled. My grownup can stand next to me. If I feel happy, I can smile and wave!

When the carousel stops, I can get down from my animal. My grownup can help me. If I liked the carousel, we can ride again!
Centennial

This exhibit has many different things to play with. Before I go inside, I see benches, and a wall that looks like a train. This is a quiet area. If I want, I can sit down on the benches and rest.

Inside the exhibit, I see a tiny city behind glass. I can look at the pieces of the city. Can I find the lake?

I can play with blocks and a toy train in this area. I see pictures of people who came to the Centennial Exhibition a long time ago. The Centennial Exhibition was a big birthday party for America!
Please Taste Café

If I feel hungry when I’m at Please Touch Museum, I can tell my grownup. We may go to the Please Taste Café to eat.

There are many delicious foods in the café. My grownup can help me choose what I want to eat. I may have to wait in line to order my food. I will be patient, even though I am hungry!

I wait while my grownup pays for my food. We find a table in the seating area. I see pictures of teddy bears on a picnic! When I am done, I will help my grownup clear our table.
Kids’ Store

This is the gift store at Please Touch Museum. My grownup may take me here at the end of my visit.

I see a story castle! I can sit and listen to a story. Sometimes I might see a famous character!

I can ask my grownup to buy me a toy from the store. Sometimes they will say “yes” and sometimes they will say “no.” If I play with any toys, I will put them back on the shelf.

There are so many things in the store! I may not want to leave, but I will try to be happy!
Important things to remember!

If I don’t see my grownup, or if I have a question, I can ask for help from a friendly person in purple.

If I need a quiet space, I can sit on the benches in a hallway.

At the end of my visit, I can wave goodbye to the workers at Please Touch Museum. Maybe I will see them again soon!