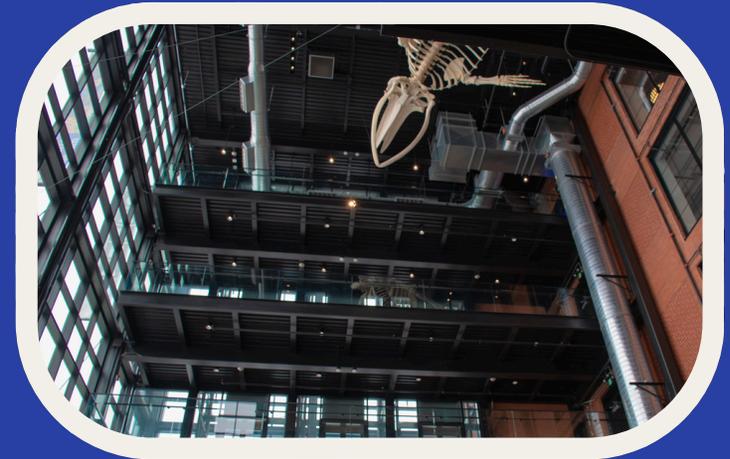
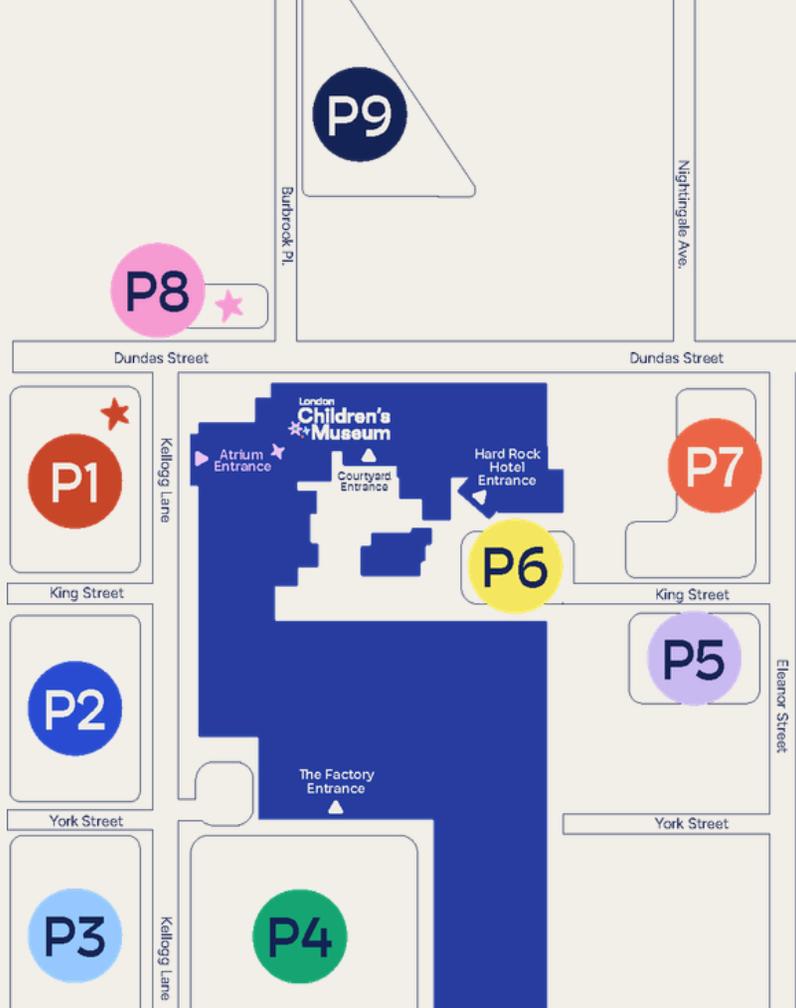




My Trip to the London Children's Museum
A Social Story for Visitors

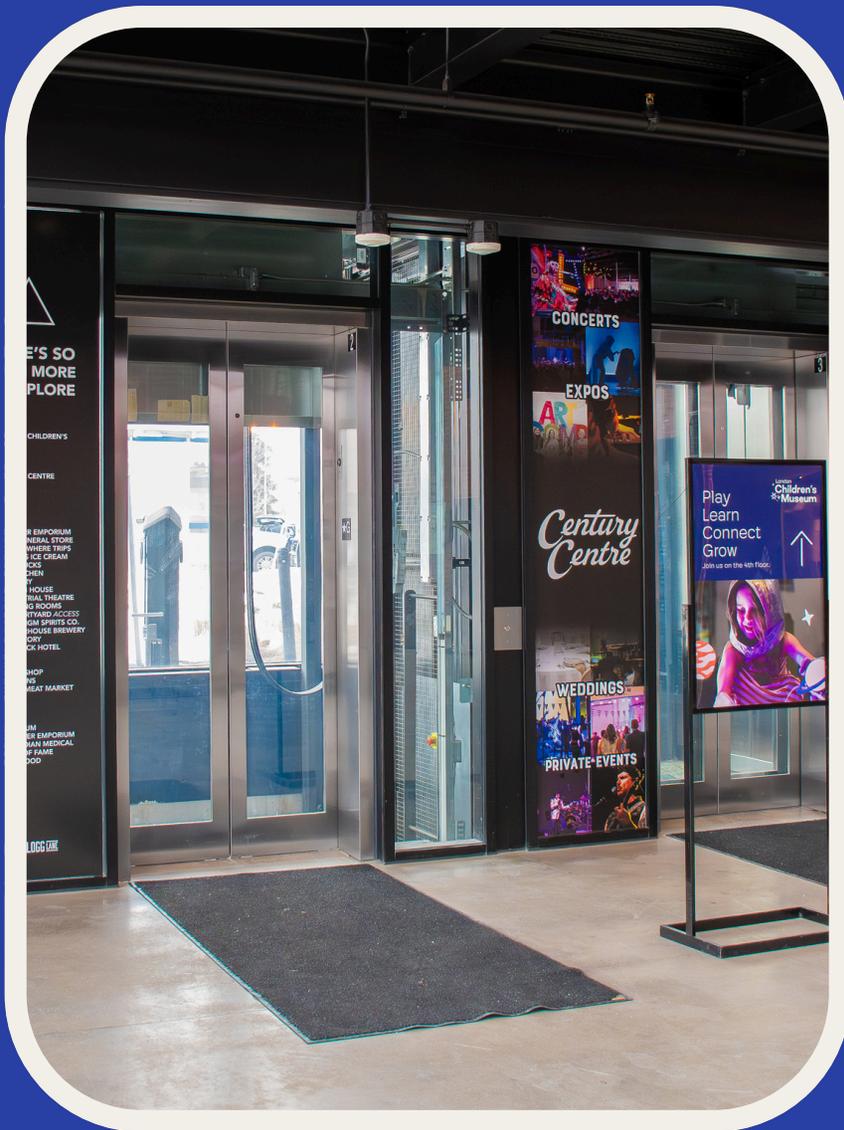


I am going to the London Children's Museum. There are many things to see and do inside!



If I come in a car with my grown-up, we may cross the street from the parking lot to reach the building. If we take the bus, we will arrive at a bus stop close to the building.

When we enter the building, we will be in a place called the atrium. The atrium has tall glass windows and lots of light. In the atrium, we will find stairs and elevators that take us to the museum.



If I take the elevator, I will press the button next to the London Children's Museum sticker to go to the fourth floor. The elevators are glass, so I can see outside as I go up.



The elevator will make an announcement when I have reached the fourth floor. After I exit the elevator, I will enter the London Children's Museum through the big blue doors.



When I enter the London Children's Museum, I will see the front desk. I may have to wait in line while my grown-up buys a ticket. The London Children's Museum staff will put a stamp on my hand. I can say "no" if I don't want a stamp.



I can ask for an Adventure Backpack that has tools in it to make my visit more comfortable.



Adventure Backpacks have lots of different items to help during my visit. I can use the headphones if it feels too noisy. If it feels too bright, I can use the sunglasses. Before I leave, my grown-up and I will go to the front desk to return the backpack.



After I get my ticket, I can hang up my coat or sweater with my grown-up in the coat room so that I'm free to have fun!

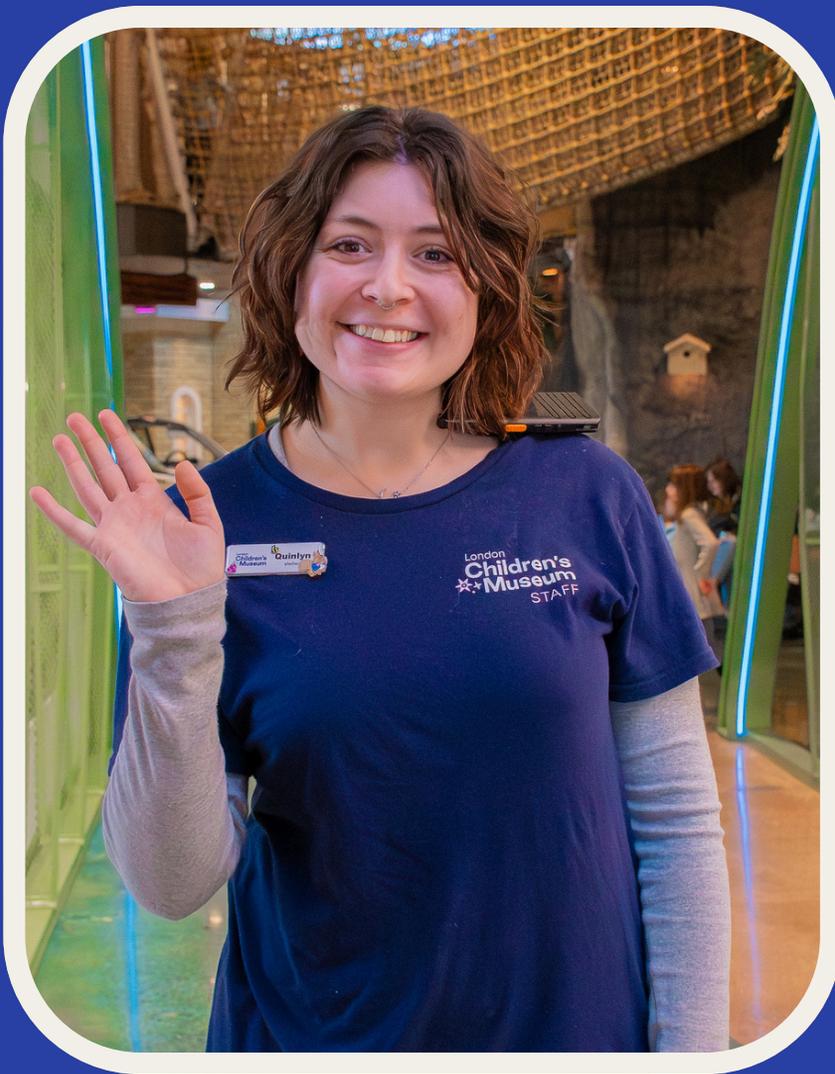


During my visit:

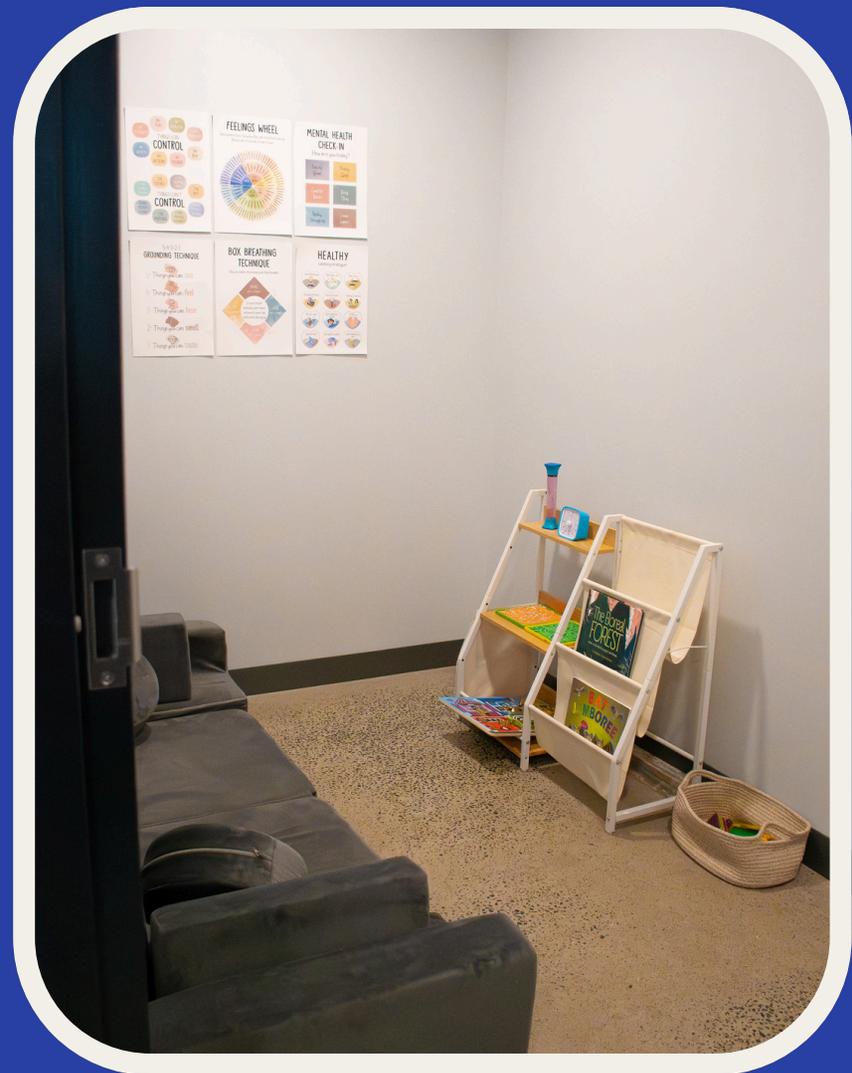
- I leave my shoes on while playing at the museum
- I take my shoes off if I go inside the dinosaur dig pit
- I make sure I can see my grown-up at all times
- While I play, I use my walking feet (not my running feet)
- I may have to share toys and space with other visitors
- If one exhibit is too busy, I can move to another exhibit
- I will be kind to everyone and everything in the museum, and they will be kind to me, too
- We will all have fun together!



If I need to use the washroom, I can look for the washroom sign or the colourful rainbow doors. I can push to flush the toilet myself; it will not automatically flush.



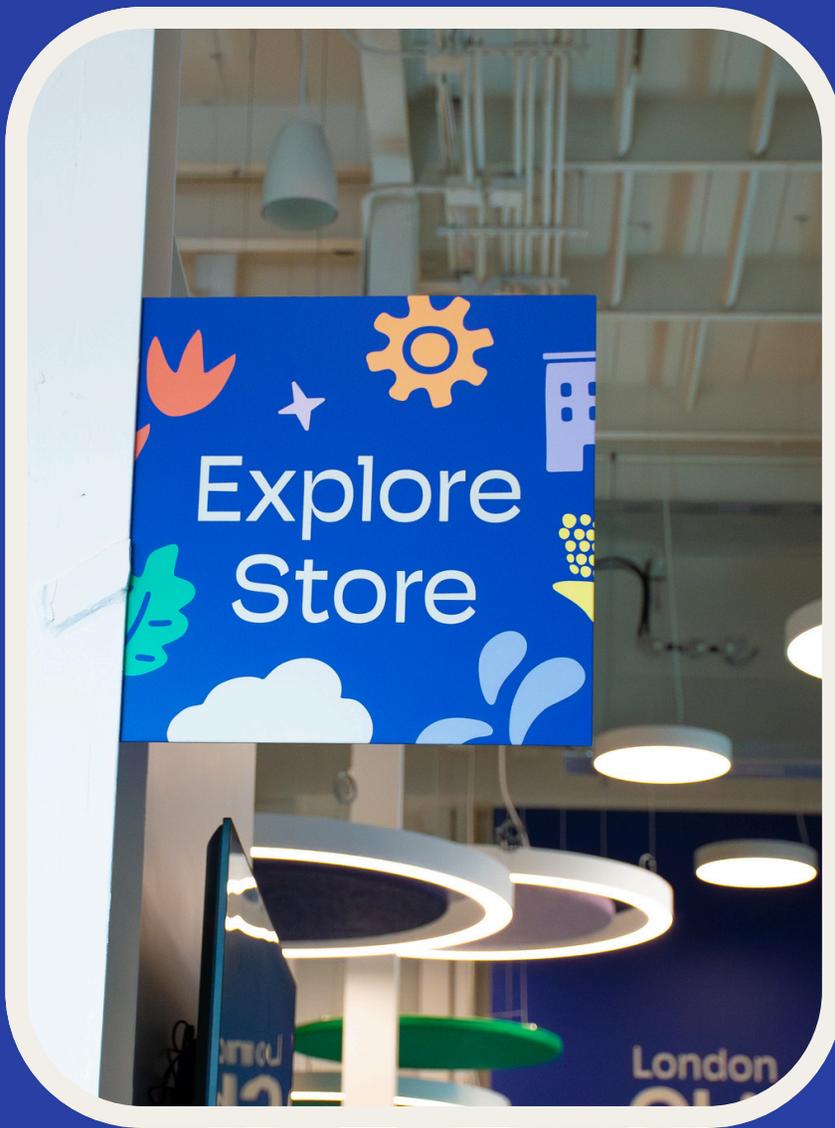
If I need help, I can ask the grown-up I came with or a London Children's Museum staff member wearing a navy blue shirt.



If it gets too loud or busy, and I feel like I need a break, I can go to a quiet room. This room is a space just for me to calm down. I can dim the lights, play with fidget toys, read books, and relax until I'm ready to go back out and play. I can also ask to borrow a weighted blanket from the front desk.



My grown-up can buy coffee and snacks from the vending machines and coffee maker. We can also sit and eat food from home.



Before the end of my visit, my grown-up will decide whether or not we will stop by the Explore Store.

A stylized illustration of space. In the top right, a blue planet with a white ring system is shown. To its left, a yellow star is positioned above a blue comet with a long, curved tail. Another yellow star is located below the planet. The background is a solid dark blue.

Exhibit Descriptions



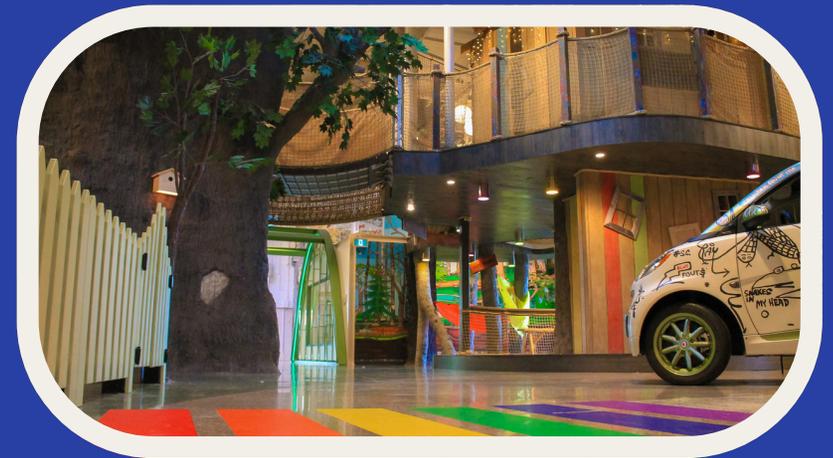
Branching Out

In Branching Out, I can climb, slide, and explore the different levels of the treehouse and the Grand Old Tree.

I can build a fort in the Fort Forest or crawl into the Fox's Den in the bottom of the trees.

I will hear birds chirping in the trees and the sounds of children playing.

I can dress up as an animal or explore the tiny details in the nature mural on the wall!

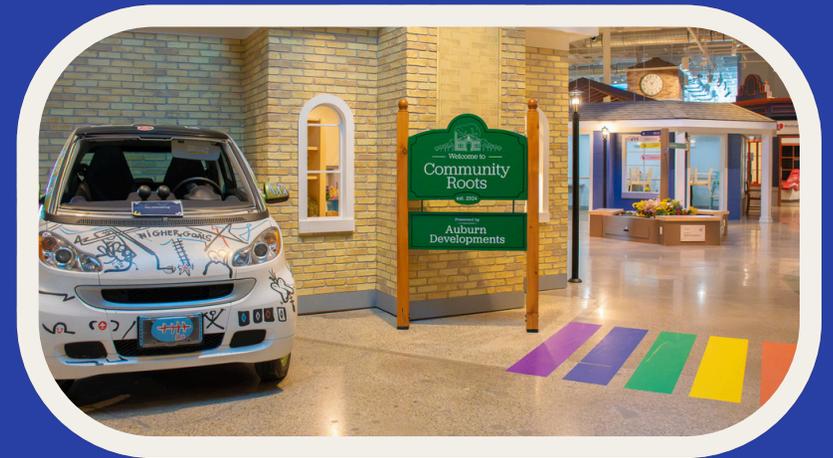


Community Roots

In Community Roots, I can be a doctor, a teacher, a chef, a firefighter, and more!

I can explore the different places and jobs that I see in my neighbourhood.

Many other children also like to play in this exhibit, so I might have to wait my turn and share the toys with other visitors.



Farm Works

In Farm Works, I can learn where my food comes from and how it gets from the farm to my table.

I can pretend to milk a cow, pick vegetables, and collect chicken eggs on the farm. I can then package the food in the Factory and get it ready to sell.

I can use the red stairs or the Lula Lift to access the upper level of the Factory. Here, I can explore cause and effect with the tubes that connect the farm to the Factory.

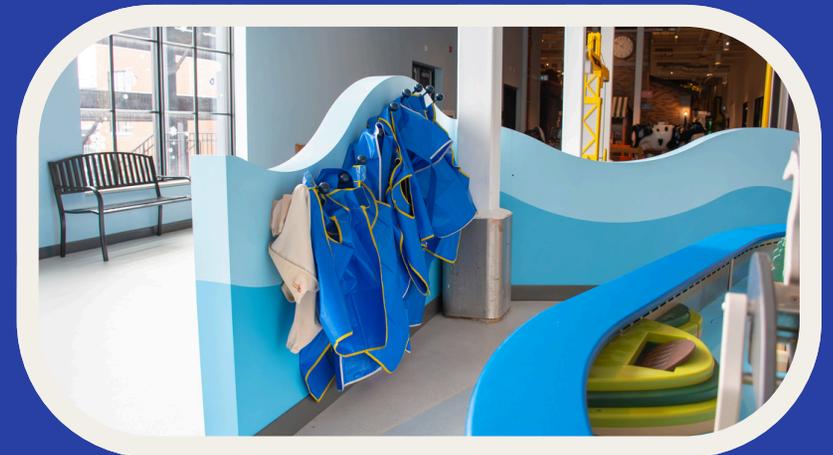


STREAM

In STREAM, I can play and experiment with water. With a raincloud, fog mushroom, and vortex, I can experience what water feels like in different forms.

I can use water launchers to shoot balls up into the air. If I use the water launchers, I may get splashed. I may also get splashed by children playing in the STREAM. If I don't want my clothes to get wet, I can put on a smock to stay dry. I can also use the dryers to dry my clothes.

There are lots of windows in this exhibit. If it is too bright, I can put my sunglasses on.

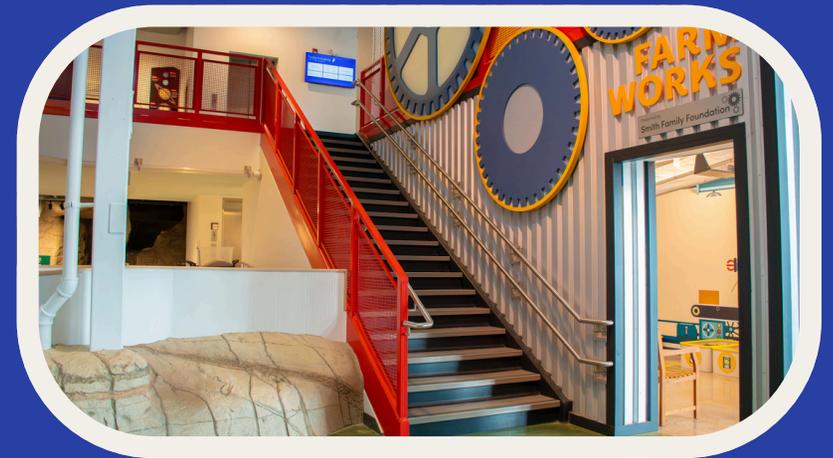


Above & Beyond

If I climb the red stairs or take the Lula Lift, I will reach Above & Beyond.

Here, I can pretend to be an astronaut and learn all about outer space.

I can dress up as an astronaut and touch a real meteorite. I can use the Mission Control Desk to plan a pretend rocket launch to outer space.



Star Shows

I can choose whether I want to see a star show in the Star Lab, located in the Above & Beyond exhibit. The show is about 15 minutes.

During the show, the lights will turn off, and I can look up at the stars and planets in the sky. The star show might make me feel like I'm flying through space. If this makes me feel nervous, I can close my eyes. I can also leave the Star Lab whenever I want.

While I am at the museum, I may hear loud announcements about when the star show will start. If the sound feels too loud, I can put on my headphones.



Unearthed

In Unearthed, I can dig up dinosaur bones and investigate fossils under a microscope.

Before I enter the dig pit, I can take my shoes off and put them on the shoe rack. Inside the dig pit, I can search for fossils and dinosaur bones.

The dig pit is full of tiny pellets that are interesting to touch.

Inside the caves, I can hang upside down like a bat or climb up high on the walls. The caves are dark. I can find small pretend animals hiding throughout the caves.



Discovery Lab

In the Discovery Lab, I can build and create using different materials.

Each time I visit the Discovery Lab, there will be a different activity.

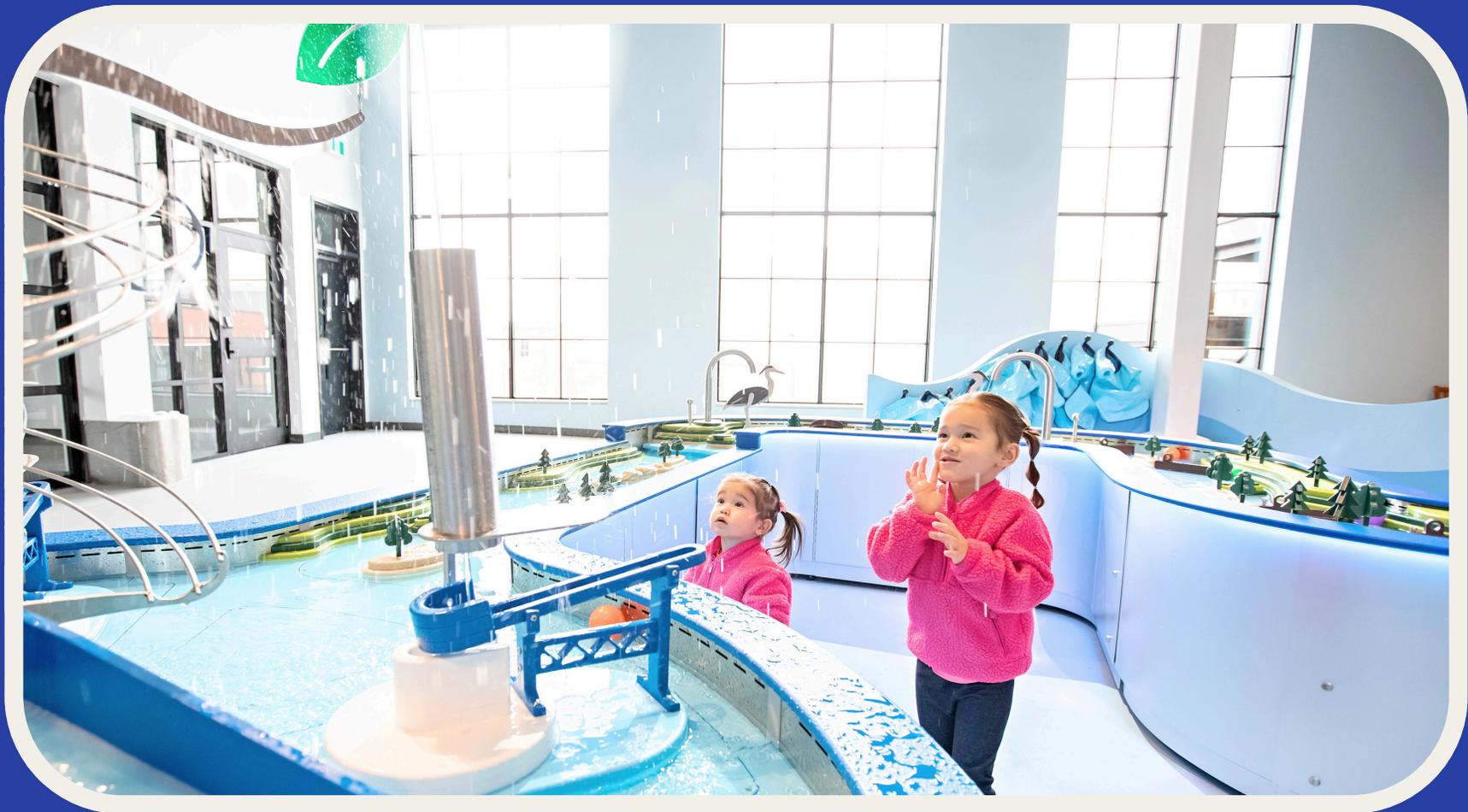
I can make things and experiment with the materials available on the day I visit.

Sometimes, there will be real tools. I can put on headphones if the tools are too loud.





My grown-up will tell me when it is time to leave the museum.



If the museum is too busy or loud for me, I can visit on a Sensory Friendly Evening instead. These nights have fewer visitors, dimmer lights, and quieter sounds. Sensory Friendly Evenings take place on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

My grown-up and I can check the calendar on the London Children's Museum website to register for the next Sensory Friendly Evening.

Acknowledgements

The London Children's Museum is grateful to the partners and collaborators who helped support the development of this social story and the expansion of accessibility initiatives across the museum. This support helps create a community space where every child has an opportunity to grow, thrive and play in ways that feel supportive and designed just for them.

Student Contributors

This social story was developed with the support of occupational therapy students who shared their time, knowledge, and accessibility expertise to help shape this resource. Thank you to these students and to Community Engaged Learning at Western University!

Ontario Trillium Foundation

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