

CHAPERONE TIP SHEET

Minnesota Children's Museum has seven galleries filled with hands-on experiences designed for children birth to 10 years of age. However, we believe everyone can play- adults especially! This guide will help you make the most of your visit so that you and your group can **PLAY TO LEARN** and **LEARN TO PLAY!**

Preparation:

- Know the plan of events for the day and who is the leader of your school group.
- Once you arrive, use your museum map, schedule of museum class (if applicable), written guides, program boards, and museum signs to help your group pursue their interests.
- Be aware that once at the museum, there is a lot to see, so there may not be time to see it all.
- Be aware of the time and listen closely for your groups announcement to head back to the lobby for dismissal.

Safety:

- There is only one entrance/exit into each gallery. Having just one doorway makes it easier to supervise your group as they set off to explore and help to assure no one leaves. Upon entering a gallery, instruct children in your group to not leave “the room” until you are all ready to leave together.
- Museum staff wearing purple vests and aprons can quickly radio for help if a child gets separated from your group. In case this happens, know what the children in your group are wearing and be aware of where you saw them last.
- Remind your group of the rules that were put in place to provide a safe and ultimate experience for everyone:
 - o Please walk at all times.
 - o Stay with your adult at all times.
 - o If you need help, find someone in a purple vest to assist you.
 - o Have fun!
 - o Other rules of thumb:
 - Please share and take turns at the exhibits.
 - Please put things away after you play with them.

Exploring:

- Minnesota Children's Museum is a hands-on museum, so children are encouraged to touch everything.
- Show interest, enthusiasm, and curiosity while in the exhibits and follow the children's leads. Use the Museum Exploration Cards for ideas on how.
- Encourage children to talk about what they are doing.
- Ask questions that help children focus their attention, predict, measure and count, observe and compare, or solve problems. Begin questions with words such as *Why*, *How*, *What if*, *I wonder if*...
- Help children work together and make group choices about what exhibits to visit.

Look for the staff in the purple vests or aprons, or the volunteers in the red vests. They will be happy to answer questions and provide help.

**Minnesota
Children's
Museum**
Smart Play

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