

Preschool Path

A guide to exploring the museum with your preschooler

You are now ready to explore even more galleries here in the museum. As your preschooler grows, they are becoming more focused and engaged in child-centered activities, such as dramatic play and tinkering. Our team of experienced educators have created a suggestion list of what you and your preschooler can do in our galleries! The Museum continuously integrates and promotes key executive functions of the brain; those functions are filtering distractions, prioritizing tasks, goal setting and achieving and controlling impulses. This list of activities can help you guide your preschooler to continue to develop those key executive functions.

Kidtropolis:

Dramatic play is an integral part of a preschooler's development. By engaging in dramatic play, preschoolers learn how to negotiate their emotions and builds literacy and language skills.

Hills Express Delivery Service: Deliver all the packages in time for the birthday party. Encourage your preschooler to take on the job of a Hills Express delivery person and help them to get the packages to their correct destination.

Ambulance: Pretend to be a first responder and help the patient. Preschoolers, use their knowledge of the real world during dramatic play to understand how the world works.

Police Car: Keep the citizens and the bank safe while patrolling Kidtropolis. As your preschooler patrol Kidtropolis, make note of the traffic light and ask when it is safe to cross the road.

PowerPlay (Main)

Engaging in activities such as Dance Mania, Jump Up and Light Chase, allows preschoolers to practice self-regulation. Watch as your preschooler, stop, listen and follow directions as they engage in each of these components.

Dance Mania: Can you follow the arrows? Preschoolers can play follow the leader, as they try to keep up with quick moving arrows.

PowerPlay (Upper)

Jump Up: Can you beat the light before it catches you? Preschoolers will have to begin to time their jumps as they wait for the light to circle around.

Light Chase: Are you as quick as a mouse? Choose a color light and be the first to burst all the bubbles of your color. Parents you can engage with your child in helping them to burst all the colored bubbles.

Blast Off: Encourage your preschooler, to turn the hand pedal as fast as they can and watch as their super hero fly through the air.

Matter Factory:

Preschoolers are naturally inquisitive and open minded, and science is an extension of their natural world. Matter Factory, can help preschoolers become critical thinkers and problem-solvers.

Thermal Conductivity: Everyday objects can be insulators or conductors of heat. Encourage your preschooler to predict which of the six different materials is an insulator of heat? Conductor of heat?

Fluorescence Tester: Discover how certain objects react to ultraviolet light, when a special UV light is used. Have your preschooler use the special crayons and write a message to you, which can only be seen using the UV light.

Conductivity Tester: Can you complete the circuit and make the lights turn on? Try the different materials to see which one will make the lights turn on. Invite your preschooler to try and complete the entire circuit and turn on all the lights.

How Does It Work:

Through experiences and discovery play, preschools are asking questions, taking on challenges and developing creative ways to problem solve. How Does It Work, will give preschoolers an introductory into how and why.

Kid Lift: Preschoolers can engage with a simple pulley system, by pulling on the rope to lift the chair. As your child pull on the rope, encourage them to describe to you what is happening? Which lift was easy to use? Which lift was difficult?

Build a Ramp: Preschoolers, can construct multilevel inclines using various plastic pieces to see how far their ball can roll. Challenge your preschooler to create two inclines at different level and race to see which ball land at the bottom first.

Musical Bench: Make music with your child, by holding hands. While sitting on the Musical Bench, hold hands with your child and explain to them that electricity is flowing through them and by touching hands and the metal plate, they are completing a circuit.

Building Zone:

Construction play involves preschoolers manipulating their play environment to construct something new. Preschoolers, are using both fine and large muscles to assemble, disassemble and move pieces during construction play.

Build Your Own Coaster: Preschoolers can construct their own coaster by joining plastic track sections together and launch a golf ball to test their coaster. Encourage your preschooler to include a loop or two in their design.

Gears: Create a series of gears and try to get them to spin together using just one gear. Invite preschoolers to arrange the gears in order of size and have them to test if the model works.

Periscopes: Spy on objects far away. Play I-Spy with your preschooler, by identifying an object and have them use the periscopes to locate the object.

Kid'sHall:

The entryway to your preschooler's introduction to their imagination and creativity.

Gear Gadget: Designed to allow your preschooler to view the interworking of machines. Challenge your preschooler to figure out how the pinwheel move.

Junktion Tables: Get creative with your preschooler and create a new craft every week while practicing their fine motor skills.

Face Painting Table: What better way to express your personality than to paint your face with vibrant, safe, washable crayons.

EcoStation:

Visiting EcoStation is a wonderful opportunity for preschooler's to learn about native Texas plants and wildlife. Being able to connect with nature support preschoolers in developing empathy, creativity and problem solving.

Puppet Theater: "What did the Texas Horned- Lizard say to the Mocking bird?" Head over to the puppet theater and create a play telling everyone what the Texas Horned-Lizard says. Engaging with puppets can help preschoolers in language development.

Shady Impressions: Practice fine and gross motor skills by shading leaves native to Texas using the special graphite pencil.

Scavenger Hunt: Preschoolers learn through observation and exploration, what better way to learn about nature, than through a scavenger hunt. Preschoolers can learn about their environment through visual observations, while searching for items on their scavenger hunt list.

Flow Works:

Flow Works is a great way for preschoolers to begin learning math and science concepts. Preschoolers can learn about what sinks or floats as well as learn new vocabulary words.

Boat Race: Invite your preschooler to build their own boat, or race one of the smaller colorful boats and see which boat is the fastest.

Aqueduct Maze: Can you make the paddle wheels spin? Help your preschooler navigate the movement of the metal troughs to create a waterfall to spill onto the paddles and make them spin.

Cyberchase:

CyberChase is a great opportunity to introduce early math skills to preschoolers by interacting with such components as Playing with Patterns and Poddleville.

Playing with Patterns: Create a familiar tune, while learning about patterns. Preschoolers can learn early math concepts such as patterns while experimenting with music.

Poddleville: Unite the Poddleville families by figuring out their whimsical patterns.

Invention Convention:

Preschoolers are naturally curious. Help your preschooler bring out their inner engineer by creating and tinkering in Invention Convention.

Duplo Building Table: Invite your preschooler to build a bridge or the tallest tower using the Lego Duplo blocks. Playing with Legos helps preschoolers with early math concepts such as geometry, spatial awareness and shape symmetry.

Widget Wall: Encourage you preschooler to create a maze that can keep the wooden ball moving for 5 seconds. How about 10 seconds. By interacting with mazes, preschoolers are learning how to think flexibly by testing and retesting a contraption through trial and error.

Straws and Connectors: Preschoolers can create 3D shapes and begin to learn early concepts of geometry.

Cultural Gallery:

Help your preschooler develop empathy by visiting the Cultural Gallery. Understanding how we are alike and different helps preschoolers develop a positive relationship with kids from other backgrounds, as well as develop a stronger sense of their cultural history.

What's New Gallery:

Your preschooler, can build confidence in taking on challenges and build communication skills while engaging in the What's New Gallery.

Trashket Ball: Encourage your preschooler to recycle paper by wading and throwing their recycled basketball into the trash. Playing Trasketball, will give your preschooler the chance to work their large muscles as they create and shoot their basketball.

Shadow Play: Preschoolers can practice their creativity and fine motor skills by drawing and cutting out various shapes to create a puppets.