What all can my toddler do at the museum?

Brown Auditorium: Short family friendly films. Show times begin at 12:30p.m. – 4:30p.m.* (Shows are every half hour daily. Movies are changed weekly to reflect Museum programs.)
Parent Resource Library: While in the Parent Resource Library sign-up for a library card and check-out the F.L.I.P. (Family Literacy Involvement Program) kit. F.L.I.P. kits are interactive literacy based kits children ages birth-third grade. Story times are 11:15a.m., 1:15p.m., and 3:15p.m. daily. Pi Beta Phi story time is held every Thursday at 5:10p.m., 6:00p.m., and 7:00p.m. and includes a free book for every child.
Fiddlesticks Toy Store: Stop by Fiddlesticks toy store and browse our large selection of the best educational toys at the best prices.
Fresh Café: Fresh made salads, entrees and snacks.

*Unless otherwise noted.
What can my toddler do in these galleries?

They grow up so fast! Congrats! Your toddler is now old enough to learn, explore and engage with the museum’s galleries. Besides our Tot*Spot exhibit, which was exclusively designed for toddlers, you might be wondering, “What else is there to do?” With our team of experienced educators, we’ve created a suggestion list of what you and your toddler 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 your tot develop those key executive functions essential in childhood development.

Can’t visit all of these awesome galleries in a day? Take a break and plan another trip for more fun and learning.

**Kidtropolis**

- Niko Niko’s Diner: Prepare a meal in the Niko Niko’s Diner. This allows toddlers to experiment with role playing and develop observational skills.
- Alexander Art Academy: Create a unique piece of art using three different colors. Painting helps develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination, which are beneficial in future writing and scissor-cutting.
- HEB Market: Make a shopping list and find the groceries you need! Role play is an essential skill that helps toddlers practice and integrate learned skills.

**Invention Convention**

- Duplo Building Table: Build a rocket ship or a bridge using LEGO® DUPLO®. Playing with LEGOS promotes spatial awareness, creativity and mathematical concepts of shape, symmetry and geometry.
- Widget Wall Contraption: Create a maze on a magnetic wall. Toddlers solve problems more creatively when they play with mazes and puzzles.
- Wind Tower: Construct devices using household items to hover in mid-air or blow the top off tubes. Letting toddlers test theories on how something works is a great way to promote critical thinking skills and build confidence.

**CyberChase**

- Playing with Patterns: Create a musical pattern to familiar tunes! Patterns are an early math skill that promotes critical thinking.
- Poddleville: Find and name all light- and heavy-weight shapes. Teaching toddlers how heavy or light objects are is an important early math skill.

**PowerPlay**

- Light chase: Stomp on all the colors before the music stops! Physical activities are a great way to practice self-control and coordination.

**FlowWorks**

- Junior Currents Table: Use the water squirter and manipulate the flow of water! Using the water squirts helps promote hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.
- Wave Channel Tank: Create waves by turning the lever back and forth quickly or slowly! By manipulating the lever and causing waves (big or small) young children begin to understand cause and effect.
- Vortex: Spin the wheel to create a tornado. Toddlers practice their motor skills by spinning the wheel to see the evolution of a tornado.

**EcoStation**

- Eco Pond: Observe wildlife in the pond and see if you can recognize any of its creatures. Observing nature helps spark children’s interest.
- TreeStump Amphitheater: Put on a play using puppet animals native to Texas.
- Hatchery: Observe wildlife in the pond and see if you can recognize any of its creatures. Observing nature helps spark children’s interest.

**Matter Factory**

- Sensory Path Entrance: Explore the different textures of each letter, such as does this letter feel smooth, or rough. Exposing children to sensory play helps toddlers develop the use of their senses.

**How Does It Work?**

- Amazing Airways: Predict where you think the ball will land using the complex tube system! Letting toddlers plan out and predict helps develop critical thinking and language skills.
- Catapult: Teaching basic measurements and geometry skills enables toddlers to make a connection between shapes and angles in their daily life.
- Telephone Man: Can you find the telephone shaped like lips? Playing games like I-spy increases your toddler’s attention to detail, language development and memory.

**Cum Yah Gullah**

This cultural gallery is where kids can see just how alike we all are. Explore the rich history of Gullah culture, reflect on your own culture and investigate other cultures. Children can develop a positive relationship with kids from different backgrounds when they have a strong sense of their own cultural history.

**Junktion**

Get creative: every week we have a new craft for you to make.