

# Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut

Where discoveries are made & fun just happens!

409 Main Street • Niantic, CT • Phone: 860-691-1111 • Fax: 860-691-1194  
www.childrensmuseumsect.org

## EXHIBITS: SCIENCE & DISCOVERY ROOM



### Kelsey's Vision

The Kelsey S. Harrington Foundation generously funded this exhibit that brings the wonder of touch, sound, and sight to young, developing minds.

Target Skills: Motor development; auditory, tactile, and vision cognition



### Magnets

Sophisticated science becomes accessible and fun when children experiment with forces at the magnet table. Have the children use magnetic wands to test different objects for their magnetic pull. Then sort the objects into two groups: magnetic and non magnetic.

Target Skills: Inquiry, experimental, classification

### Black Light Room

This glow-in-the-dark exhibit can really light up the minds of your children as they experience a new visual reality. Ask them to observe which color glows purple under the black light. Glow bubbles are available at the front desk.

Target Skills: Visual cognition, inquiry



### Pipe Organ

Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La-Ti-Do. Children will love experimenting with sound at this exhibit. Have them follow the instructional guides to play some popular tunes. Watch the mechanics of the organ as they play!

Target Skills: Auditory cognition, pattern recognition, musical intelligence



### Maxi-Roll Away

Children can construct their own unique racetrack with the brightly colored panels at this exhibit. Have children design different courses to make the balls go fast or slow. Give your children an early exposure to this classic mechanical physics experiment: the ball and the ramp.

Target Skills: Experimentation, physics



### Air Basketball

Defy gravity with an everyday appliance! Children can experiment with angle as they attempt to keep the balls flying high. Bernoulli principle in action!

Target Skills: Experimentation, physics, balance



### Kaleidoscope

Children can experience their own reflections like never before. Immerse them in this reflective technology. How many of you can you count?

Target Skills: Visual cognition, math skills



### Bees

Bees play an important role in pollinating flowering plants that provide food. About 1/3 of the human food supply depends on insect pollination, most of which is done by bees. The bees living in our hive are mild-tempered honeybees. Can you see the bee's honey in the hive? It glistens in the light. Ask the children what they think the honeybee sounds like.

## SEASIDE VILLAGE



### Boat

All aboard this adventure in imagination! Catch some fish, ring the bell, wear a life jacket, and sail away on your adventure of discovery.

Target Skills: Motor development, narrative formation, vocabulary



### Fish Market

Imaginations meet measurement in this exhibit. Help children count and weigh the fish in the market. They can even create their own catch of the day.

Target Skills: Dramatic play, mathematical literacy, social development, sorting

*SEASIDE VILLAGE continues . . .*

## SEASIDE VILLAGE continued



### Clamming

Walk through our beach and rake for clams to sell in our very own Fish Market! This exhibit is great hands-on experience for children and adults.  
Target Skills: Dramatic play, gross motor skills, exposure to biology



### Train Table

This is our most popular exhibit. Children get to play and imagine themselves as conductors of the rails. This exhibit enables children to narrate their own stories.

Target Skills: Narrative formation and expression, imaginative play, fine motor skills

## GLOBAL VILLAGE



### Egyptian Pyramid

Experience an ancient culture with your children as you step back in time to northern Africa. You can help them decipher hieroglyphics and discover treasure inside the pyramid, just like real archeologist would do.

Target Skills: Dramatic play, historical awareness, motor development



### TV Station

Your students can report on the weather, the news, and their own stories in the interactive exhibit. Have them experiment with different voices, characters, emotion, and detail.

Target Skills: Dramatic play, verbal expression



### Chinese Trading Post

While visiting the Chinese Trading Post, children can use their imaginations to create and cook their own recipe in the wok using ingredients they purchase at the Trading Post. Have children look at the Chinese currency (Yuan). How is it different from the dollar? How is it the same?

Target Skills: Multi-cultural awareness, dramatic play, social development



### Mexican Restaurant

Your children will develop a taste for Mexico in this miniature kitchen where kids can become the chefs. Encourage them to role-play as different characters, from the cooks to the customers.

Target Skills: Multicultural awareness, dramatic play, social development

### Music for All Children

This exhibit features Soundbeam®, an electronic system that can detect motion through ultrasonic beams and translate it into sound. Soundbeam engages students by challenging them to express themselves physically and musically. This exhibit will also encourage collaboration amongst peers

Target Skills: Gross and fine motor skills, musical awareness, sensory development, social development



### Toddler Land

For younger children, the infant and toddler area offers sensory stimulation for developing minds. Children can climb on the play set, build with blocks, shake the rattles, and even read some fun stories with you.

Target Skills: Sensory development, motor development

## OUTDOOR PLAYSPACES



### Water Table (handicap accessible)

Our Water Table is great for warm days and is a favorite with kids. Explore the different properties of water as it takes form. Watch the children explore and learn all about water.

Target Skills: Gross motor, fine motor, hand eye coordination, sensory development



### Bubbles!

Who doesn't love to play with bubbles? We have a table full of different sized wands for children to use. Take our bubble challenge: try and defy gravity and send your bubble sailing over the Museum.

Target Skills: Fine motor, gross motor, hand-eye coordination

## OUTDOOR PLAYSPACES continued



### Tree Fort

Just for kids! Our 3-tier tree fort is a place for imaginations to run a-muck. Kids can climb on up and explore as they look over the play yard.

Target Skills: Gross motor skills



### Stage

Lights, camera, action! Children can set the stage for their own production with bright fabric versatile enough to become anything they imagine! Let them be the stage manager, but they have to bring their own imaginations.

Target Skills: Dramatic play, narrative formation and expression, social development



### Percussion Wall

Kids can make their own music with a variety of junkyard finds, or add some sound effects for the performers on stage.

Target Skills: Gross motor, fine motor, music awareness



### Rock Wall

Children can test balance as they scale our rock wall. Can they make it across and back without touching the ground?

Target Skills: Gross motor, and fine motor skills

### Sand Table (handicap accessible)

Do your children like to build sand castles? Do they love the feeling of sand? Then they will enjoy our sand table. This is great for children of all ages.

Target Skills: Gross motor, fine motor, sensory development



### Digging Site

Children will love to dig a trench; build a secret hideout, or a water tunnel with our child-size shovels and blocks. Don't be afraid to let the kids add water! There is plenty of room for a full crew in our digging site.

Target Skills: Gross motor, eye-hand coordination, social development, imaginative play, properties of solids



### Fountain (open April to October)

Let the children get wet; catch the drops as the copper water fountain flows, water plants, fill a tub; paint a water picture at this popular outdoor station.

Target Skills: Gross and fine motor skills, sensory development, properties of liquids



### Submarine

Take the children under the sea, at least in their imagination, on the Benthic Explorer, an authentic research submarine. Climb inside with the kids to experience marine biology.

Target Skills: Gross motor skills, narrative formation, expression, and imaginative play