

I'm going to the
Children's Museum of Virginia
today!



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Story based on Social Stories Criteria 10.2 written by Carol Gray

I am going to the **Children's Museum of Virginia** today!

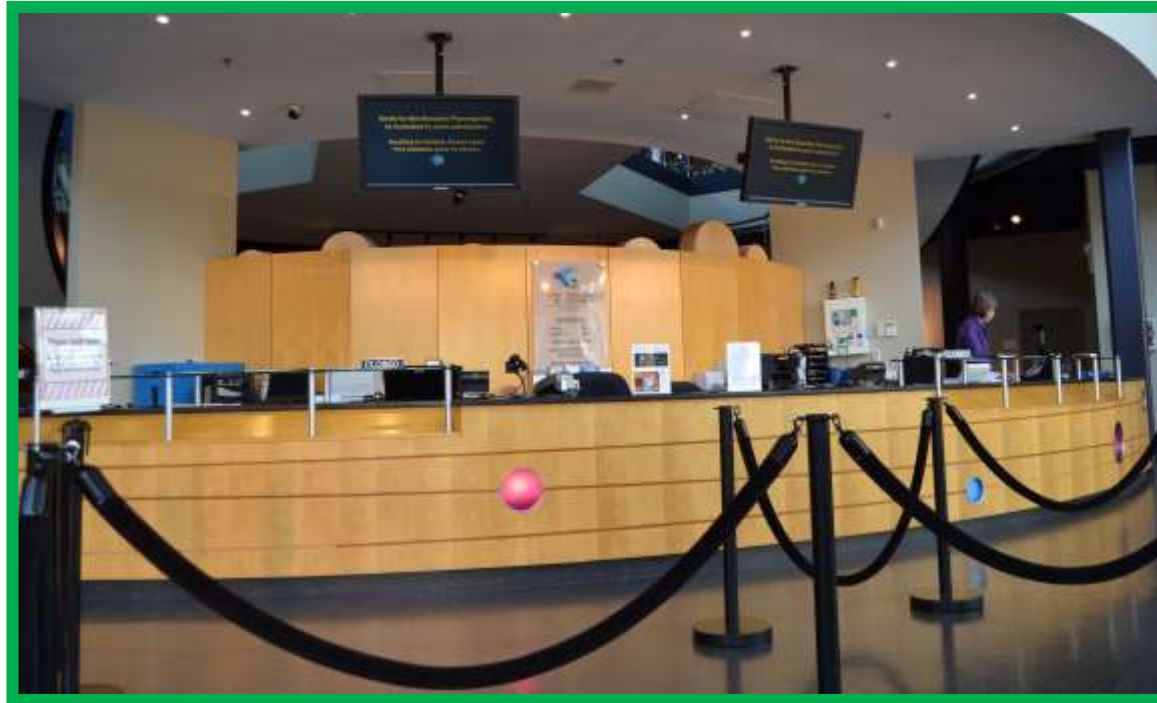


We may park in the parking garage behind the **Children's Museum of Virginia**. The parking garage may be dark, and the other cars driving through the garage may be loud.

We will walk to the entrance. The street might be busy with other cars, people, and buses so I should stay with my adults.

I will know I am at the museum when I see the [Andalo](#) sign. [Andalo](#) is the museum mascot. He wants me to explore, learn, and have fun!





I will see the admissions desk when I go inside the museum. I might have **to wait patiently in line until it is my family's turn to get my tickets.** There may be a lot of other people waiting to visit the museum too. It may be loud while we are waiting. If it is too loud, I can ask the admissions desk for some headphones.



When it is my turn, the museum staff will welcome my family to the **Children's Museum of Virginia**. They will talk with my parents, and I will try to be patient. After we have our tickets, we can go explore. The museum has some important rules to follow, so I can be safe. It is important to stay with my adult, use my quiet voice, and use my walking feet.

One exhibit we might visit is [Bubbles](#) where I can make my very own bubbles. I might even make a very, very big one. The bubbles smell like soap. I may get the bubble liquid on my hands, but I can ask my adult to help me dry my hands with a paper towel. It is very important to use my walking feet in [Bubbles](#), because the floor may be very slippery.





Right next to Bubbles is the **Working Port**. Here, I can catch fish with a fishing rod. I should keep my feet on the floor while fishing, so I do not fall overboard. I may have to take turns catching fish if other children are playing at the **Working Port** too.



On **Beazley Lane** I can visit many areas that I might see when my family goes out in town.

I can shop at **Wegman's Market**, or I can be a cashier.



In **Towne Bank**, I can learn to write a check, use the calculator to add or subtract money, and I can turn money into smaller amounts by stepping on it.





I can pretend to be a doctor or dentist in **Bodyworks**. I can practice giving babies a checkup so the doctor will not be so scary. I can also help brush the giant teeth.

In **Pets and Vets**, I can learn about animals by turning the pictures under the kennels. I can also pretend to be a veterinarian and help the dogs and cats.





In the [Music Shop](#), I can play many different instruments. These instruments are made from common items, but they make many different noises. It may be loud in the [Music Shop](#). If it is too loud or the noise bothers me, I can tell my adult.

I might also visit the **Safety Zone**, where I can pretend I am a firefighter and put out fires. The fire might start unexpectedly, and it may be loud.



Another place we can see is the **Train Exhibit**. There are hundreds of trains on display.



To find it, my family and I can follow the tracks on the museum floor. I can crawl through the yellow tunnel to stand inside a bubble to see more of the train. I should be sure that I do not cross the fence or touch the trains because they might break.

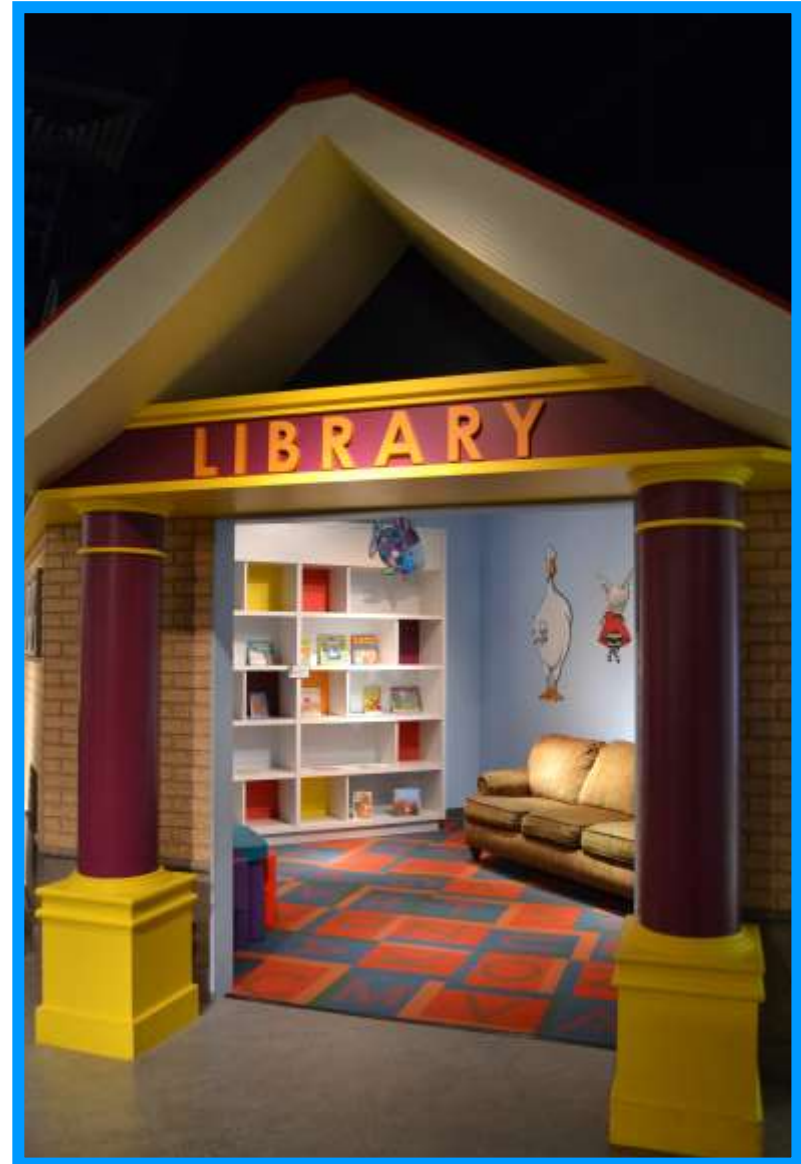
If I need a place to sit or take a picture, I can rest in the [Big Purple Chair](#).





If I need a quiet area, I can visit **Tot Yard**. It is quiet, and I can play here until I am ready to explore again. **Tot Yard** is an area of the museum for little kids to play. There may be babies in **Tot Yard**, so I need to be careful and use my walking feet.

Another quiet area where I can sit and rest is the [REACH Library](#). This area has many books to read. My adult can help me pick out one book to take home with me.





When I am ready to visit the second floor of the museum, I can use the stairs or the elevator.

If I use the stairs, I need to use the hand rail for my safety.

If I use the elevator, I might have to wait patiently because other families might be using it too.





Once upstairs, we can visit [My Backyard and Beyond](#), where I can learn about nature and the planets with hands on buttons and puzzles. I can explore a house, walk through a tree, and crawl through a tunnel in this exhibit. I might walk through an area about weather with noises that sound like rain or thunder.

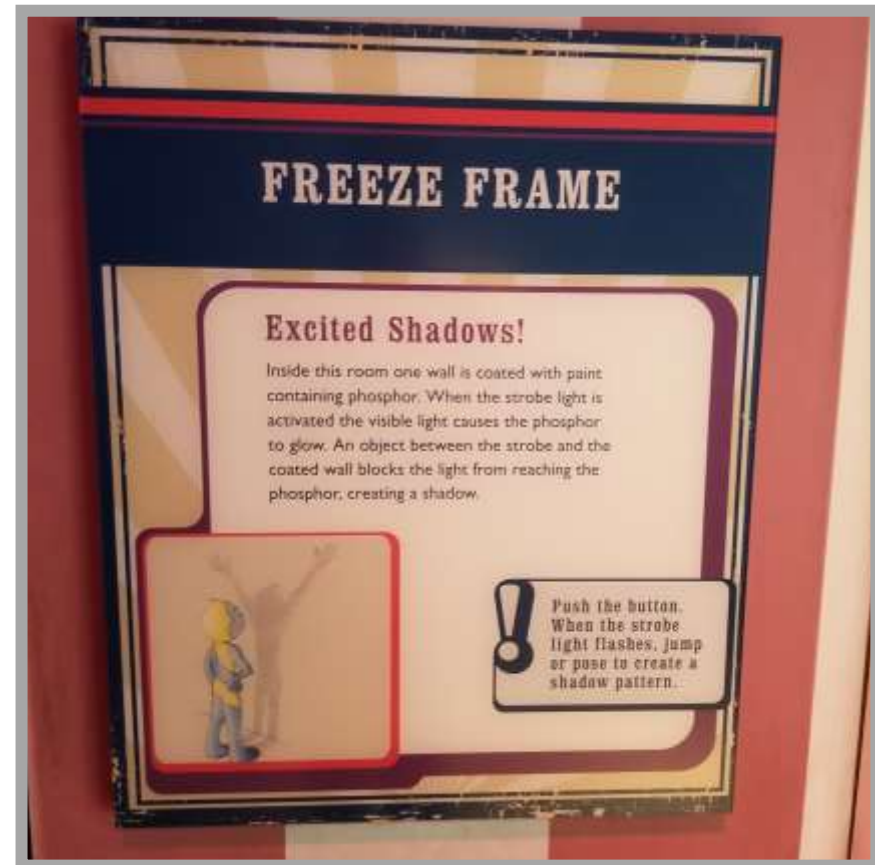


I might also go through the room about our solar system. This room is dark so you can see the stars on the wall. If the dark bothers me, I can tell my adult.

In **Dr. Forces**, I can explore energy and other sciences. I can use my own energy to learn about simple machines. I might lift an elephant or launch a rocket! This area can be really loud. If it gets too loud, I can ask my adult to sign out headphones at the admissions desk. The headphones will help make the museum quieter.



In this area, there is a room where I can make shadows. It will be very dark in this room, and I will see a bright flashing light. I can use this light to make my own shadow by moving or jumping.





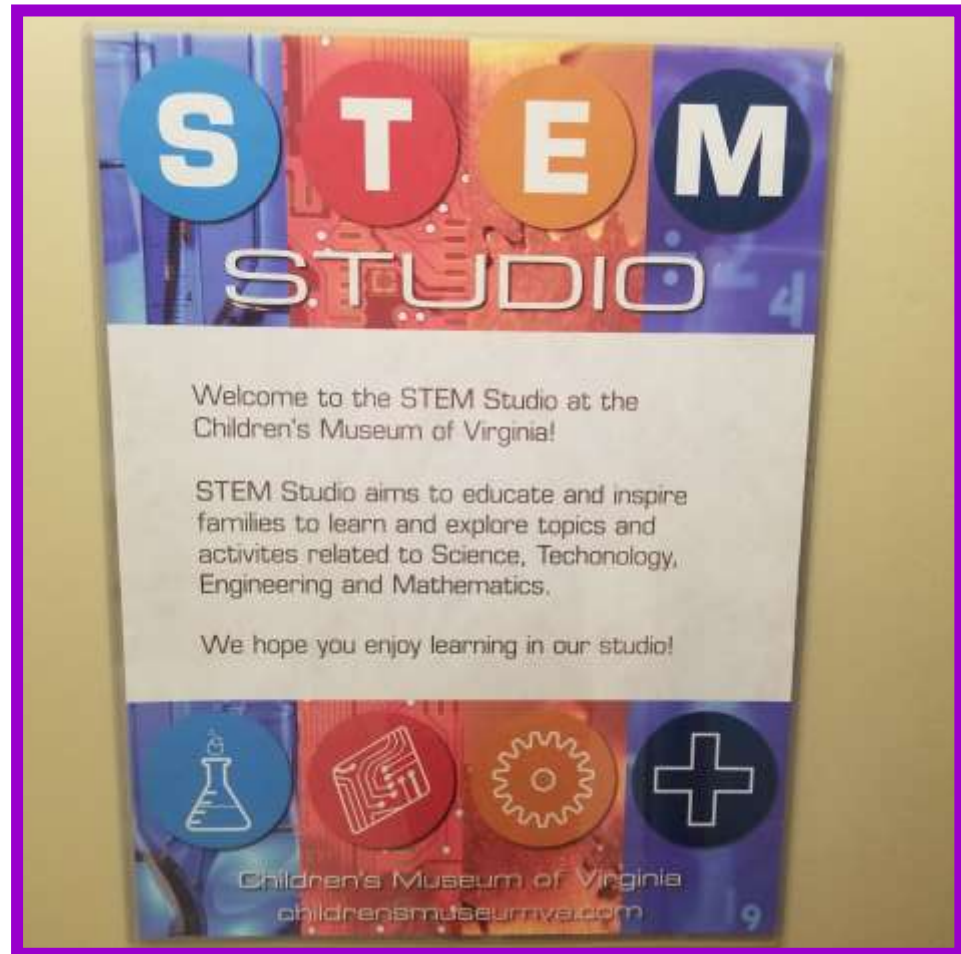
CreARTivity will allow me to explore art and perform on stage in the Performance Space.

If the Make-It-Take-It room is open, I can make my own art project. If I need help, I can ask an adult. After I am done, I can take my art home with me.

In *Recollections*, I can dance around or jump to see colored lights copy me. This room is dark, and the lights are many different colors. If there are other people in the room, I should be careful, so I do not bump into them or get hurt.



If the **STEM Studio** is open, I can go inside to learn about science, technology, engineering, or math. I might get to build with blocks or complete another project. I may need help from an adult if the project is too hard.





If I need to use the bathroom, I can tell an adult so they can take me to one of the bathrooms. There are bathrooms upstairs and downstairs that I can use. I should wash my hands when I finish using the bathroom, so I can continue playing with the things in the museum.



Near the end of my visit to the museum, my family and I might visit the [Museum Shop](#).



In the [Museum Shop](#), there are a lot of toys. Visitors, like me, can buy these toys. I will try to remember to ask an adult before I touch the toys in the [Museum Shop](#). It may be crowded in the store, so I want to stay close to my parents. It is important to use my walking feet, so I do not knock anything over.



My adult will tell me when it is time to leave the **Children's Museum at Virginia**. I can take fun pictures with the **Frog** statues, **R. Hero Dog**, or with the statue of the **Children Reading** outside of the museum. At the end of my visit, I can turn around and wave good-bye to the museum.

I had a fun day visiting the **Children's Museum of Virginia!**
Maybe I can visit again some time!





Additional Resources including social stories for field trips and planetarium shows are available on the Children's Museum of Virginia webpage under the accessibility tab.

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