

I'm going on a field trip to the  
**Children's Museum of Virginia**  
today!



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Story based on Social Stories Criteria 10.2 written by Carol Gray

Today we are going on a field trip to the **Children's Museum of Virginia**!



I may ride the bus from school to the **Children's Museum of Virginia**. The bus will unload behind the museum. Our teacher will give us instructions for getting off the bus. I will try to listen carefully, so I can be safe.

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



We will meet a museum staff member wearing a museum shirt or name tag. The museum staff will help our class enter the museum and give us important instructions for the visit. I will try to be quiet and listen, so I do not miss the instructions.



I can use my walking feet to move around the museum. I can use my inside voice to tell my group and the adults about the fun things I am learning. I can share and take turns to make sure everyone has fun. The adults will be proud of me for following my museum manners.



I will be put into a group with classmates and our chaperones. There may be lots of other people and school groups visiting the museum. It is very important to stay with my group during the field trip!





If I need to use the bathroom, I can tell an adult. 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.



We might watch a program during our visit. The Museum Educators teach fun programs to help us learn new things. We might get to answer questions or do an experiment. I will try to listen to all of the instructions during the program so everyone in my class can have fun and learn something new.





When we are exploring the museum, we may only have a little bit of time in each exhibit. It is important to listen to the adults so we can see different areas. The adults will be proud of me for listening and following directions.



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 dry my hands with paper towels. 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 group 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 we need a place to take a picture, we can sit in the **Big Purple Chair**. We may have to take turns sitting in the chair.







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

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

If we use the elevator, I might have to wait patiently because other groups 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.



We might also go through the room about the 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**, we 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.

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.



When it is time to leave the museum, my teacher will tell me where to line up and when to go. We might take a bathroom break before leaving the museum to get on the bus.



I will try to use my walking feet and stay in line when we go outside, because there may be cars on the road or other people on the side walk. I might turn around and wave good-bye to the Museum.



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





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

(Add link if possible)