

## Playscape

*Playscape* is a gallery for young children, infants through age 5. Play is an integral part of a child's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development. The activities in *Playscape* are designed to provide young children with an opportunity to learn through the method that is most successful for them—play. *Playscape* features several hands-on play areas.



The Arts Garden encourages children to create using a variety of art materials. The process of creating is more important for young children than the final product.

The Construction Site includes different types and sizes of blocks for children to construct imaginary environments.

Babyscape allows infants and toddlers ages two and younger to explore using their senses. They may roll balls, turn on a light switch, and look in the mirror. The exploration path allows for physical play as they master crawling and walking.

The Family Room is a room for families to read stories, relax, and calm or nurse a baby. It is also a place for parents and caregivers to learn more about how young children grow, develop, and learn.

The Fantasy Forest encourages pretend and physical play as children learn about people, animals, and objects in the playhouse, garden, birdhouse, and tree house. Pretend play is a natural way to begin to interact with other children; it helps increase social and language skills.

The Magic Wall allows children to express their thoughts and feelings using magnets and puzzles. Re-creating experiences is an important way for children to make sense of an experience, remember it, and connect it to other experiences.

Water and Sand Tables introduce children to basic science concepts as they experiment by splashing, pouring, and measuring. This type of play helps children learn to make decisions, solve problems, and control parts of their environment.

All children must be accompanied by an adult while in *Playscape*. The museum encourages adults to interact with their children in the gallery and to take responsibility for their children's behavior.