

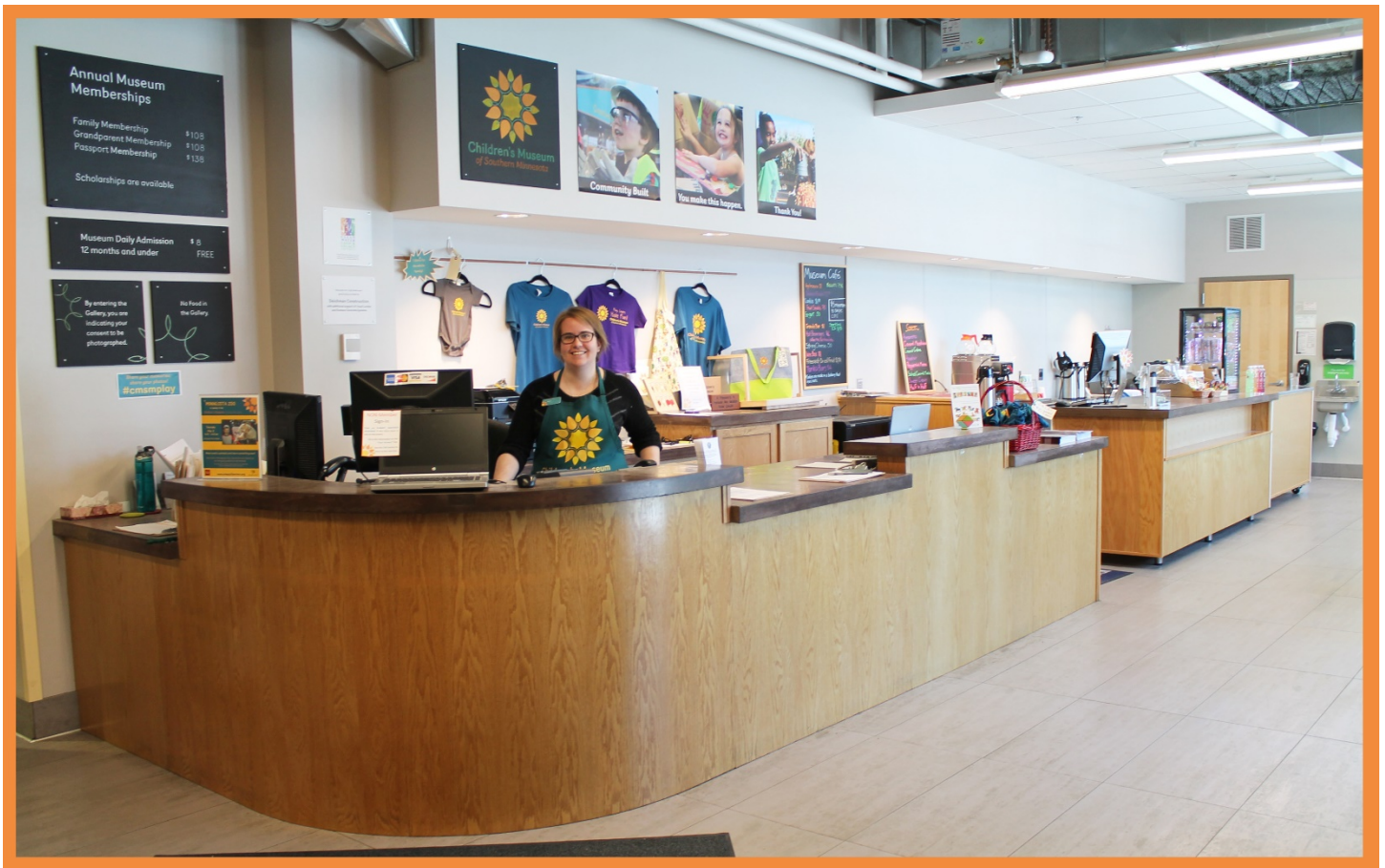
*A Trip to the*

# Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota



I am going to the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota. They often call it "Museum." It is in Mankato.

When I get there, we will all check in at the Front Desk. I will meet some of the people who work there. They are called Playworkers. I will know who they are because they wear green aprons with a sunflower. The Playworkers can help me while I am visiting the Museum. If I need help or have a question about the Museum, I can ask them.





The Museum Café is right next to the Front Desk. Visitors can buy snacks there or bring a snack from home. Food and drinks are not allowed in the Museum exhibits area. I can check with a Playworker about a good place to have my snack.



The restrooms are across from the Front Desk and Café. The hand dryers in there can be loud. If that bothers me, I can just use paper towels instead.



There are a lot of things to see and do at the Museum. My family and I can make a plan for our visit. We could even use a checklist to choose the things we will do.

I might not be able to do everything today. And, sometimes, exhibits are closed. That is okay. I can do it another day.



It is important to be careful with the toys and equipment in the Museum. I will try to help clean up when I am finished, too. Then everyone gets a chance to use things.

Remember:  
Museum stuff stays at the Museum!





Many people love coming to the Museum. It can get very busy. There will be times I will need to wait my turn. I will try to wait calmly or just go to another exhibit.



If I need a break, my family or a Playworker will help me. We can ask for headphones or a bean bag. There may also be a quieter place I can go.

When I am ready, I can go back to exploring and having fun at the Museum. My family can have fun, too!

It is important for me to stay with my grown up. My grown up will make sure I stay safe in and around the Museum.

I will try to be a good Museum visitor.

# Exhibits

## *Kato Engineering Explorers' Lab & Cecil's Imagineering Loft*



STEAM activities in these spaces will help me learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

One thing in this area is a giant wind tunnel. It sounds like a loud fan when it's turned on. I can see if I can make objects float or fly!



I can get my hands wet and colored if I paint on the paint wall, that looks like a big window. If I wear a smock over my clothes, painting may be cleaner.

There is a loft upstairs that is sometimes open for visitors. If it is open, I can go with my family to check it out.

I should ask a Playworker if I have questions about equipment I can use or activities I can do.





## Coughlan Quarry

The Quarry is a place where I can play in the sand, move big blocks with a crane, or crawl through a dark tunnel. I can wear a hard hat or work vest while I play. The Quarry can be busy and loud. Sometimes, I can just sit on a bench and read books.

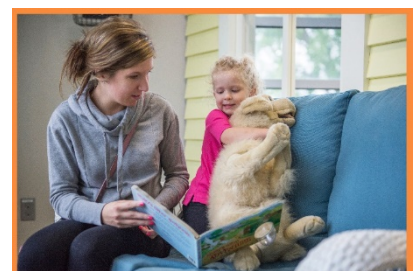


## Infant/Toddler Play Porch



The Play Porch is an area for babies and children who are three years old or younger. If I have younger brothers or sisters, I can play with them gently and help them have fun.

We could sit on a couch or window cushion and read quietly or just look out the window.



## *Mankato Clinic Tree of Forts Climber*

The Mankato Clinic Tree of Forts is a humungous climbing structure with chutes, tunnels, stairs made of rope, and seven forts to explore. Some of the forts, tunnels, and bridges are high up in the ceiling. Kids and adults can climb and crawl through lots of spaces. I can use my strong arms and legs.



If I feel nervous or lost, I should call for a Playworker or my family to help me. It will be okay.

I may need to be patient and wait my turn to climb up or down or through the Tree.



## *Grow It Gallery*



This is a big exhibit in the center of the Museum. There are many choices in the Gallery, so it can be active and loud. I will often need to take turns with other kids.

I might pick veggies or collect chicken eggs. I can pretend to be a cook and make food for my family. Or, I could be a farmer and even sit on a tractor.



In the Grow It Gallery it is especially important to help put stuff away when I am finished with it. That will make everyone happy.

## AgLab



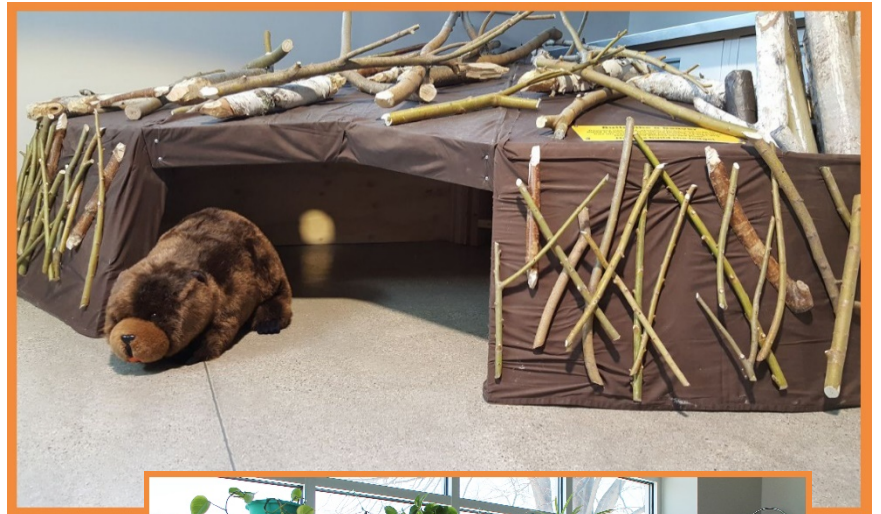
The Ag Lab is about animals and nature. If there are live animals, they will usually be in aquariums or terrariums. I shouldn't touch them, but I am welcome to look.

Plants may be growing on the shelves and I can look at those, too.

In this space, I may see a dairy barn with big stuffed cows or a beaver lodge with a stuffed beaver. There can be many different items on display that I can look at, touch, or play with.

If I have questions, my family or a Playworker can help me.

I can also choose to sit at a table in the AgLab to look at books or do other activities related to nature.





## *Alltech Farm Animal Experience & Dotson Back 40*

This exhibit is outside, with a lot of space to play. There is usually a water play area with a pump I can work myself. Because it is outside, this space may not always be open.



Sometimes there are live animals outside, like pigs, baby calves, goats, chickens, or ponies. Things change with the seasons. There might be garden boxes in the summer or a pumpkin patch in the fall. Sometimes it is okay to pick and sample fruits and vegetables, but sometimes it isn't. I should always ask to make sure.





## *Lauri Kuch Memorial Stage*

This exhibit is a stage where I can try on costumes, create characters, play music, or put on a show for others to watch. My family would like that!

If it's busy, I may need to wait my turn.





# Plan Your Visit

This is a list of most of the things you can do at the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota. Use it to help you and your child plan which exhibits to go to or the order you will do things. You could also use it to indicate which exhibits are not an option on the day of your visit or when you might take a break.

- ☐ Front Desk
- ☐ Café – Snacks or Beverages
- ☐ Museum Courtyard
- ☐ Kato Engineering Explorers’ Lab
- ☐ Cecil’s Imagineering Loft
- ☐ Coughlan Quarry
- ☐ Infant/Toddler Play Porch
- ☐ Mankato Clinic Tree of Forts Climber
- ☐ Grow It Gallery
- ☐ AgLab
- ☐ Lauri Kuch Memorial Stage
- ☐ Quiet Spaces
- ☐ Restroom
- ☐ Other:
- ☐ Other:

Notes:

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*Have fun exploring the Museum!*

*The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota is especially designed for children age birth through 10, but there is plenty to do and see for any age and ability.*



Several times a year, the Children's Museum hosts **Special Needs Accessibility Playtimes**. These events are a time for children with special needs or sensory challenges to come play and explore the exhibits and galleries when fewer Museum visitors are present. Special Needs Accessibility Playtimes are free to attend and no preregistration is required. Please watch the Museum's website and Facebook page for more information about these opportunities.

Developed in collaboration with Robin Boeke, retired Autism Resource Specialist,  
Mankato Area Public Schools

The Children's Museum Access Initiative efforts are funded in part through an Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant administered by the MN Humanities Center and created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.





## Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota

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