

Why visit a children's museum? Children's museums are fun, interactive gathering places where families can learn and play with other families. Many children's museums are located in major travel and tourism destinations. They are inclusive, non-judgmental environments where kids can be kids and lifelong learning is nurtured. More and more families visit children's museums each year for unique, face-to-face fun, enlightenment and shared experiences not found in traditional museums or other popular destinations. Peek inside a children's museum and you'll see children interacting. Say adiós to rigid rules: at children's museums the general rule is: Please Touch! Children's museums produce exhibits that transcend age and experience, and empower children to set their own pace.

Children's Museums and Lasting Memories Often it's the downtime in between the periods of highly stimulated entertainment that children and families will remember fondly. Children's museums offer a variety of activities. Many children's museums have exhibits that provide families an inside look into the history of the area and the principles of science. Some have new interactive LED exhibits. Children's museums offer opportunities for family learning as well for time to bond with family members.

Welcoming Places Due to the interactive nature of children's museums, most families can participate in exhibits regardless of their language fluency. Additionally, many children's museums create opportunities for children and family members who use wheelchairs, or who rely heavily on their sense of sound or touch because of differing abilities.

Do you remember the first time you walked through our museum's doors and gazed in wonder at all the sights before you? Remember the excitement you felt when you explored all the hands-on exhibits, dug for a fossil, peered through a microscope, and traveled to the edges of the galaxy? You're not alone. Our Children's Museum has been inspiring children of all ages for almost 48 years. It started with the dream of the Junior League, who inspired a community to create a center for exploring, discovering, and learning. Over the years, many people have had a hand in CM's success and the museum has grown from a one-room display to a state-of-the-art facility that serves thousands of people each year.

The Power of our Children's Museum Starts with YOU! For 48 years CM has been inspiring children and entralling adults through hands-on exhibits. We receive no city, county, or state tax funding, and the cost of providing the vital education programs that CM offers cannot be completely funded through membership or admission fees. That's why we need your support! Including the Children's Museum in Utica's CDBG funding and as an integral part of the Master Plan is a win/win for all of us.

But keeping the dream alive for future generations requires your support, which will ensure future generations will have a place to go where they can expand their world, challenge their thinking, and reach for the stars. Share the wonder of CM and help us provide inspiration for the next teacher, doctor, astronaut, explorer, scientist, who might well stay in our community because of all it offers, including a Children's Museum for kids from 1 to 101, an educational resource, family quality of life organization, and a vibrant tourism attraction. Please help us continue to inspire our children with a love of learning that will last a lifetime.