

# Museum



Lobby of Museum of Natural History in NYC.



Exterior of the Museum of Natural History in New York City.



Child at an Art Museum

## BEFORE YOU GO

Planning a child's museum visit can make the experience more enjoyable and help prevent problems. Planning can promote family interaction, develop the child's confidence, and ease potential anxiety.

Official museum websites offer lots of helpful information, such as: address, directions, transportation, parking, general admission info and hours of operation.

- Maps of the museum
- Exhibition details / event calendar
- Activity schedules / things you can do

Various children's exhibits and programs may be held in the museum. There may be tour guides who can direct family visits for those who enjoy that option. Some museums offer family workshops to enrich the visit.

- Familiarize yourself with special support and rules

Each museum will have different rules and support for families. For example, some children museums offer courses for

children to attend. If you or your kids are interested in participating in a lecture in the museum classroom, make sure that there is time to do so and still see museum highlights.

- Introduce what the museum experience to children with videos that give them a better understanding of what there is to see and do in the museum.

Here are some examples:

General introduction  
(published by Click Museum).

Ex. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAr3UZn7nyg>

Learn about museum visitor rules and information: (A fieldtrip to PAMM)

Ex. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se1ji-dwWUs>

Gain a children's perspective  
(published by Play Pittsburgh) on museums:

Ex. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\\_LJ07WBMVM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_LJ07WBMVM)

- Show pictures of the museum to your child so they can be familiar with what it looks like and what kinds of activities are there
- Role-play to visualize a museum tour, while talking about it. This can help children picture what they can and will do in the museum.

### Prepare for the new setting;

Ex. There may be elevators in the museum. If your children have never used an elevator before, prepare them by having them ride an elevator and practice it before they visit the museum.

## DURING YOUR TRIP

- Explore the map in a general way with your kids.

It can be crucial to know restrooms are, for example. Also don't forget to pick a place that is easy to find in case you and your kids become separated.



### A Child and The Map of The MET

- Sign up for the museum tour to get a complete experience of what's in the museum. After the tour you and your children can go back and spend more time in favorite places you discovered.

## PROBLEMS

- Talk with your kids about what to do in case they get lost, or if any type of emergency happens. Review potential safety issues and responses with them. Ex. If they get lost, they can stay where they are and wait for you to get them. Or they can ask museum security guards for help, or go to the front desk and tell the staff that they are lost. These people are usually wearing the museum uniform and nametag.

## AFTER-VISIT CONVERSATION

Conversations with children after the visit are learning opportunities:

- Discuss what they did and saw.
- Provoke curiosity by asking questions
- Explain things for them and answer their questions.
- Connect the museum visit to prior experiences.
- Read topic-related story-books to extend imagination and thinking.



*Parent and child having a conversation.*