



## Long Island Children's Museum Mission

Connecting all our communities' children, and those who care for them, to one another and to a life of wonder, imagination and exploration. Here, children discover their passions and their relationship to the world we share.

Children's Museums provide a unique opportunity for children to learn through play, and explore a large range of subjects and ideas in one place. When children visit Long Island Children's Museum (LICM), they are invited to explore, experiment and wonder about the world around them. Through inquiry-based learning experiences, LICM allows children to learn by doing and immerse themselves in the exciting work of discovering.

## Preparing for your Trip and Extending the Learning

Now that you have chosen your field trip, let us help you enrich your visit. During their time at the Museum, children will be strengthening a number of skills, including:

<b>Cognition</b>	mental abilities, i.e. awareness, perception	
<b>Sensory</b>	utilizing the senses to gather information, i.e. vision, hearing, smell, touch, taste	
<b>Social</b>	interacting with others, collaboration	
<b>Language</b>	Receptive and Expressive	
<b>Visual Motor</b>	activities that use eyes and body together, i.e. writing, coordination	
<b>Gross Motor</b>	large muscle movement, i.e. walking, balance	
<b>Fine Motor</b>	small muscle movement, i.e. grasping, dexterity	

These skills are strengthened by:

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Experimenting
- Exploring
- Observing
- Listening

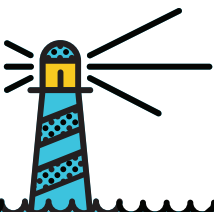
To help children get the most out of their time at the Museum, we suggest creating opportunities for kids to think about their upcoming trip and begin to make predictions and plans about what they are going to experience. Review your reservation packet for tour details and content prior to your visit and share details of the visit with your students. Both our website and our LICM4all mobile APP will provide additional support in planning for your time at LICM.

Encouraging the right kinds of questions will allow students to enter the Museum with an inquiry approach already established. Finding ways for students to make personal connections to the content they will explore on their trip will help them integrate their learning while at the Museum. And finally, connecting lessons to the content they will learn about at LICM will help create an immersive experience, helping children make stronger connections to the content and deepening understanding and memory of the subject matter.

After visiting the Museum, you can help children process their experience and strengthen their understanding of what they discovered through reflection and discussion. Group discussions as a class allow for a sharing of ideas and brainstorming or creating a "think tank" for future learning experiences in the classroom, at LICM or beyond.

## Need ideas for pre/post activities that support this learning?

The ideas below can be introduced before their visit to LICM and then extended upon after the return to the classroom after their visit. Continuing the same lesson both before and after their visit allows for consistency and the ability to make stronger connections to their ideas and experiences.





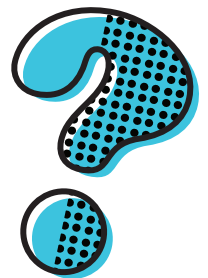
- Create something based on what they think they will experience
  - **Journaling** – provides children an opportunity to predict and reflect on what they already know about a subject, what they would like to learn about it and after their trip what they actually learned and experienced. Writing allows for integration with the added bonus of strengthening their literacy skills! Younger children can participate in journaling activities by using pictures or having an adult scribe for them. They can write free form or you can provide prompts for them if you would like their journaling to focus on something specific.
  - **Prediction/Discovery Board** – Done as a class, children will again be able to think about what they expect they will experience and learn during their time at the Museum. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce new vocabulary and concepts that will prime them for their time at LICM. They will experience the added benefit of hearing one another's ideas and working collaboratively to add to the board and discuss the predictions. After their visit, children will be able to collectively compare their expectations to their experiences and expand on previous ideas or generate new ones. In addition, any opportunity for children to experience other perspectives broadens their world and opens their minds.
  - **LICM Trip Learning Center** – Tailor your center to meet your class's needs! Create a hands-on experience that connects to the exhibits and content in your field trip. Visit LICM's Pinterest boards for ideas connecting to each field trip or exhibit you are planning on enjoying. In your centers, be sure to include manipulatives or activities that introduce children to inquiry-based learning, connecting to the skills that will be strengthened during their trip. Have some activities that are sensory-based, or for younger children, incorporate role playing or make believe into their center. Books and opportunities to experiment are always a great addition! After their visit, manipulatives that are content specific are always a helpful addition. Invite the children to make suggestions for additions to the learning center based on what they are interested in exploring more. This is a great opportunity for child-directed learning!

- **LICM Detectives** – Prepare children with the right kinds of questions to ask, so they can be LICM Detectives on their visit. Providing open-ended questions that connect to the exhibits and content in your field trip will enable students to engage immediately. Providing them an opportunity to wonder about and investigate while they are in the Museum will help them focus and integrate what they are learning on a personal level, allowing for a deeper learning experience! Following up with open-ended questions after the trip allows the learning to continue! See below for a list of suggested questions.

### Open-Ended Questions

Open-ended questions help avoid yes or no answers and provide children opportunities to think about what they experienced while generating their own ideas. For teachers, open-ended questions provide a window into the understanding and thought processes of their students, allowing for a better idea of what each child needs to extend their learning. Try adding some of these questions to your conversations about their trip to LICM!

- What did you try?
- What do you think would happen if...?
- What did you notice about...?
- Why do you think...?
- Why did you try...?
- How did ... work?
- How did you decide...?
- What if you...?
- How else could you...?
- Can you describe...?



A fun way to get kids thinking about their experience at LICM might be to ask what they would add to an exhibit that they didn't already see, or what type of exhibit or Museum they would build if they had the opportunity to create one. These kinds of focused, open-ended questions can be empowering, providing children an opportunity to think of themselves and their learning with an element of control and envision themselves in a role where they can make future impact.

A great follow-up to any answer is often a simple, "Tell me more."

