My trip to Sensory Time at Imagine children's museum

A Social Story for Diverse Learners
Imagine Children's Museum is located at 1502 Wall St. in downtown Everett, WA.

Sensory Time occurs on the North side of Imagine Children's Museum on the third Sunday of every month from 9-11 a.m. After 11 a.m., the entire Museum is open to the public. You are welcome to stay and enjoy the rest of the Museum during this time. If you choose to stay, please see our social story about visiting the entire Museum.

Parking is available on the street (90 minute limit on weekdays) or in the pay lot behind the Museum (via Colby Ave.). Some lots are reserved; check signage.

The entrance for Sensory Time is located on Wall Street.

Boys' and girls' restrooms are located next to the WaterWorks exhibit on the first floor of the North (original) side of the Museum, or in the Lower Level near the Commons. These bathrooms have manual flush toilets, manual sinks and automatic hand dryers.

To access a gender-neutral individual restroom, called the Drip Drop Stop, go through the gate near the Group Entrance. It has a manual flush toilet, a manual sink and an automatic hand dryer.

Ask a staff member if you need additional support.

The Social Story is presented in Open Dyslexic, a typeface/font designed to help with symptoms of dyslexia.

Suggestions on how we can improve our museum accessibility, email us at info@imaginecm.org. We hope you enjoy your visit!
Welcome!

I am excited to visit Sensory Time at Imagine Children's Museum!

During my visit, I will see so many fun and interesting things. This story will help me have a great time!

For Sensory Time, I will enter the Museum through the doors located on Wall Street. I will stay with my grown-up while we enter the Museum.

After my grownup checks us in, I am ready to explore.
Museum Staff

If I need help finding my grown-up or if I have a question, I can ask a staff member. Staff wear purple vests or colorful shirts.
Sensory tools are available to borrow during my visit. They can help my body if it's too loud or too bright. I can ask the staff if I want to borrow one of these items. I will return them when I leave.
If I feel overwhelmed or frustrated, I can take a break in P.J.'s Place or tell my grown-up I'm ready to go home. It's OK to do that. I can play at the Museum later or on another day.
Museum Rules

The museum has rules that help everyone be safe and have a good time. I will follow the rules so I can play and have fun! Others will also have fun if I'm following the rules.

- Share and take turns
- Use walking feet
- Eat and drink only at the tables in the Commons, located on the lower level
- Grown-ups and kids stay together
Sensory Symbols

Throughout this story, I will see these symbols. They help me understand what to expect in each exhibit.

- This exhibit may be bright OR the lights may be off
- This exhibit may be loud
- This exhibit may be crowded
Restrooms

The restrooms on the main floor are located next to Water Works. The toilets flush manually, not automatically. The hand dryers can be noisy.

Restrooms on the Lower Level also include toilets with a manual flush and automatic hand dryers. Paper towels are available outside in the Commons.

There is also an individual restroom I can use near the Group Entrance. The hand dryer can be noisy here, too.
The Museum has a toddler area for kids ages three and under. I will take off my shoes to go in this area. If I am older than three, I will need to stay out of the toddler area. Following the rules keeps everyone safe!
Tickets, please! At the bus exhibit, I can pretend to be a bus driver. There is only one steering wheel so I will need to wait and take turns driving the bus.
Lights, Camera, Action!

At the Movie Maker Studio, I can use different figurines like animals or dinosaurs to make a picture movie. Using the camera to take a picture might be difficult. I can ask my grown-up or a museum staff member for help.

I will need to remember to share and take turns. If other kids are in my space while I'm working on my movie, I can say: "I need space," or "No, thank you."
The Recollections Room is dark with a bright, colorful screen. I can use the movement of my body to make an image on the screen. Other kids might be in the room at the same time so we can work together to light up the screen!

There is also a drawing board in this room with special pens I can use to make a glowing picture on the wall.
Trains, trains, and more trains! At the Monte Cristo Railroad exhibit, I can pretend to be a train conductor, watch an electric train go around the track, or push wood trains on the tracks. I will need to share and give others space at the train table. When it is time to leave, I will leave the toys there.
I can pretend to be a pilot or a passenger at the Airplane. There is only a pilot and co-pilot seat at the front of the plane, so I will need to wait and take turns flying the plane. Some of the buttons inside the plane make loud noises. I can use headphones if I need to.
Splish, Splash! I can watch balls float in the water or send them down a ramp. This exhibit has lots of water. I can wear a smock to help keep my clothes dry. I can use my walking feet so I don't fall. The water might have a funny smell.
I can pretend to be a farmer at the Farm! There are pretend animals and even a tractor I can sit on. I will need to take turns riding the tractor and the horse. This exhibit can sometimes be crowded so I can remember to take a break if I need to.
At Air-Mazing, I can send a scarf through a tube and watch it fly to the ground or try to catch it in the air. Sometimes the scarves get stuck in the tubes so I can ask a grown-up for help if I need to. It is important to know that only scarves can go in the tubes. I will need to take turns and share.
Piccolo Café

This is a make-believe restaurant where I can pretend to make food and drinks for other people. It can get crowded in this exhibit, so I will need to wait and take turns. When it is time to go, I will leave the food here.

Socks n' Suds Laundromat

This is where I can pretend to wash and iron socks, and sort them by pattern, size and color. I can also hang them on a clothesline.
Shhhh! I can go up the stairs to P.J.'s Place if I want a break or need a quiet place to sit and look at a book. There are benches and many books on the shelves.

I can take a bridge to the treehouse next to P.J.'s Place. The bridge might feel wobbly, but I am safe. In the treehouse, I can look out a window and pretend I'm in the trees!
In the Theatre, I can dress up on stage or operate the sound and lights. It is dark to make it look like a real theatre. If there are other children, I will need to wait my turn. When I leave this area, I will leave the dress up clothes for other children to use.

The Glow Zone is next to the theater. It is also dark. There are fun glow-in-the-dark pieces I can play with in this room.
In the Lower Level, there are usually one or two activities offered especially during Sensory Time.

Sometimes, I can choose to play musical instruments or dance to music. I may need to take turns with the instruments.

Sometimes, I can see a dog. It is a trained therapy dog. It likes to meet new children and grown ups. I can decide whether or not I want to get close to the dog. I can ask the dog’s handler if I have any questions about the dog. I may need to wait my turn to softly touch and pet the dog.

Sometimes, there are special sensory toys and materials set out for me to try.

If I want to eat or drink during Sensory Time, I do this in the Commons area located at the bottom of the stairs.
The Rooftop Adventure is a great place for me to climb and get my energy out! I can also find the Rooftop Rhythms music area where I can play musical instruments. The Dino Dig is a place where I can pretend to be a paleontologist and dig for dinosaur bones.

Some days it is closed. If the weather is too hot, cold, rainy, or smoky, my grown-up might tell me we need to stay inside. I can come back another time.
When it's time to go, I'll leave the way I came in on Wall Street.

My time at the Museum is all done. I can say "Bye-bye, Museum! See you next time!"

I had a great time exploring and I can't wait to come back!
Plan Your Visit

Use the visual checklist to plan your visit to the Museum. You can print the checklist, cut out the exhibits, and paste them in the order you want to visit. Using this as a visual aid during your visit can also help your child transition from one exhibit to the next, checking them off as you go!

First Floor
- Woodlands Adventure
- Wildlife Rescue
- Camp Imagine
- Lodge
- Everett Transit Bus
- Movie Maker Studio
- Recollections Room
- Monte Cristo Railroad
- Airplane
- Water Works
- Toddler Area
- Farm
- Air-mazing
- Cafe & Laundromat
- P.J.’s Place & Treehouse
- Theatre

Second Floor
- Tall Timbers Rooftop Adventure

Lower Level
- Special Sensory Activities
Questions for Caregivers

After you read through this social story, you may want to ask your child these questions to help prepare for your visit:

- What are you most excited about or worried about?
- What are you going to do/say if ____? Role play with your child about specific scenarios that might come up.
- What exhibits do you want to make sure we see?

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Developed in collaboration with Melissa Armstrong, M.Ed., BCBA, with feedback from families, Imagine Children's Museum staff, occupational therapists, and speech and language pathologists.

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