

TEACHER TOOLS



*"There is always one moment in childhood when
the door opens and lets the future in"*

- Deepak Chopra



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Dear Teacher:

Welcome! ***Totally Tots*** is where the Museum's youngest visitors turn into scientists, artists, and adventurers through experiences specially designed for ages 5 and younger. With twice the original space of pure fun and play, kids can develop the cognitive, physical, and social skills needed for a lifetime of learning.

They can float toys in **Water Wonders**, create masterpieces in the **Art Studio**, sift through brightly-colored sand in **Sand Play**, read stories in the **Reading Nook**, or build with blocks in **Building Zone**, or make up plays to perform in the **Little Theater**. *Totally Tots'* activities nurture self-directed play, social learning, and the fine and gross motor skills needed to develop the whole child. Its purposeful and playful design reflects and responds to the intense growth period from 0 to 24 months and beyond.

We hope you will enjoy this Teacher Tools Professional Development Resource Materials Packet. Inside you'll find an explanation of the goals, concepts, and activities covered in *Totally Tots* as well as suggested activities for you to do with the under-5 set. It is our hope that you will use this material packet as a resource to further assist you in conveying *Totally Tots'* educational concepts to your students and colleagues.





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What Totally Tots Is About



Big Idea: Play is learning!

Main Message: Carefully designed play offers children opportunities to develop their social, physical, emotional, and intellectual abilities.

The activities and exhibits invite visitors . . .

- to engage in an immersive experience that supports the various types of play:
 - * Cognitive/Intellectual
 - * Pretend/Imaginative
 - * Physical/Active
 - * Social/Emotional



Exhibit Highlights

Water Wonders

- Explore the wonders of water in a multilevel water pond suitable for children of different ages and abilities. Crawl through to a plastic dome where children can watch water swirl around them while they stay dry inside.
- Manipulate water toys and built-in structures to measure, pour, and redirect the flow of water.
- Create a colorful painting on a transparent wall during a scheduled program; showerheads above are in place to rinse away the paintings once complete.

Play Connections:

Pretend/Imaginative Play • Cognitive/Intellectual Play • Physical/Active Play

New York City Department of Education Performance Standards:

Physical Development • Cognitive Development: Mathematical Thinking and Scientific Thinking



Art Studio

- Create a masterpiece of art by using a wide variety of art supplies and materials to color, sculpt, draw, and paint.
- Participate in a facilitated art or craft project led by museum educators.

Play Connections:

Social/Emotional Play • Pretend Play/Imaginative Play

NYC Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development • Creative Expression and Aesthetic Development • Physical Development • Cognitive Development: Language and Literacy Development



Sound Around

- Engage the entire body to scamper up and down a ramp, go down a slide, and crawl through a lit tunnel below.
- Explore sound on a multilevel climbing structure housing a variety of musical instruments made out of recycled materials.

Play Connections:

Physical/Active Play • Social/Emotional Play • Cognitive/Intellectual Play

New York City Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development • Physical Development Cognitive Development: Scientific Thinking

Toy Town

- Exercise your imagination and play with toys and objects that directly relate to artifacts showcased in display cases. Artifacts from the museum's collection include dollhouse furniture, dolls from around the world, stuffed animals, trolleys, and a miniature replica of the Empire State building.

Play Connections:

Cognitive/Intellectual Play • Pretend/Imaginative Play • Social/Emotional Play • Physical/Active Play

New York City Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development • Creative Expression and Aesthetic Development • Cognitive Development: Language and Literacy Development • Social Studies

Little Theatre

- Use dress up clothes, scarves, hats, puppets, and the imagination to put on shows and performances.
- Observe masks from different cultures around the world.

Play Connections:

Pretend/Imaginative Play • Social/Emotional Play

NYC Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development • Physical Development • Cognitive Development: Language and Literacy Development

Reading Nook

- Cozy up with a pillow or sit on a comfy chair to read or listen to stories from around the world under a colorful tent-like canopy.

Play Connections:

Cognitive/Intellectual Play • Pretend/Imaginative Play

New York City Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development • Cognitive Development • Language and Literacy Development.

Baby Hub

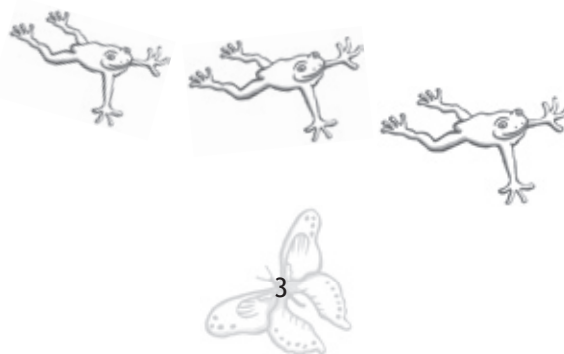
- Infants 0-18 months enjoy an enclosed play space just for them. Practice shape, color, and texture recognition while manipulating soft stuffed Velcro shapes and creating a collage on the walls.
- Interact with parents in a safe and confined foam "pool" containing age appropriate toys.
- Practice emergent physical movements in a smooth climbing and crawling structure, and practice standing with a padded pull up bar with mirrors.
- The Nursing Nook is available for mothers to feed their child in a comfortable, private space.

Play Connections:

Physical/Active Play • Cognitive/Intellectual • Pretend/Imaginative Play • Social/Emotional Play

New York City Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development • Physical Development • Creative Expression and Aesthetic Development • Cognitive Development: Mathematical Thinking and Scientific Thinking • Language and Literacy Development



Building Zone

- Build structures with a variety of blocks in different colors, shapes, and sizes.
- Create colorful designs and patterns on a magnet wall with recycled laundry cap magnets.

Play Connections:

Physical/Active Play • Cognitive/ Intellectual Play

New York City Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development • Physical Development • Creative Expression and Aesthetic Development • Cognitive Development: Mathematical Thinking, Scientific Thinking

Parent Junction

- Pick up informative brochures and articles regarding local activities and programs, nutrition, literacy, early childhood development, and parenting tips, to name a few.
- Interface with parents and care takers to network and share information with each other.

Play Connections:

Physical/Active Play • Cognitive/Intellectual • Pretend/ Imaginative Play • Social/Emotional Play

New York City Department of Education Performance Standards:

Social and Emotional Development, Cognitive Development: Language and Literacy Development.

Goals for Teachers and School Groups

What we want students to learn—



- **The cognitive, physical, and social skills needed for a lifetime of learning;**
- The social skills to help them negotiate interpersonal and social interactions;
- How to value their innate curiosity and to ask questions in a way that gets answers;
- How to look, see, imagine, listen, and communicate;
- How how to create ideas, objects, and play/learning activities; and
- Learning can be fun!

How we want students to learn—

With delight! Play is a self-satisfying activity through which children develop skills, gain control, and come to understand life. **We want children to learn through play and inquiry, building skills they can apply to their own exploration of the world around them.** *Totally Tots* is a place that models for teachers and students an approach to learning that extends well beyond the Museum. Our aim is that they become "fearless learners."



Suggested Classroom Activities

Take *Totally Tots* back to your classroom!

1. Make Musical Instrument/Grades PreK-1

Discuss with your students what kind of instruments they saw and played with in *Totally Tots* and the importance of recycling objects. Categorize the instruments by the way that they were played, such as wind, percussion, etc. Talk about how these instruments were made out of recycled materials. Have the children choose the instrument they would like to make, some examples are:

- Kazoo: wrap a piece of wax paper around a comb
- Rattle: dried beans, rice, or macaroni in a plastic bottle or yogurt container
- Drum: an oatmeal box or coffee can with a lid makes a drum
- Guitar: Styrofoam trays or a shoebox wrapped with rubber bands

Ask children to describe how their instrument is played, such as shake, stroke, or blow. Have the children parade around the classroom making music with their instruments.

Standards: Meets Science and Art Standards.

Totally Tots Connections: Sound Around.

2. Bubble Play/Grades PreK-1

Practice blowing bubbles in the classroom with your students. Use your water table or a plastic tub and fill with soapy water. Experiment with various household objects as bubble blowers, such as slotted spoons, strainers and sieves. Dip each into the soapy water and blow through it. Ask your students, "Which ones make the best bubbles?" "Why or why not?"

Standards: Meets Science Standards.

Totally Tots Connection: Water Wonders, Art Studio.

3. Squish, Squeeze, and Squirt—Shaving Cream Fun!/Grades PreK-1

Young children love to squish, squeeze, and squirt. Use shaving cream in your art projects to provide fun tactile stimulation. Squirt a handful of shaving cream onto a waterproof surface and add 3 or 4 drops of food coloring. Invite your students to mix the colors and observe as they spread throughout the shaving cream. Ask open ended questions, such as "What colors do you see?" "What would happen if we mix this other color?" "How does the shaving cream feel on your hands?"

Standards: Meets Science and Art Standards

Totally Tots Connections: Water Wonders, Art Studio



Suggested Outdoor Exploration Activities

Get students outside and explore!



- Visit other cultural institutions that welcome early learners.
- Go to your local library and make sure all your students have signed up and received a library card.
- Visit outdoor parks and community gardens for science explorations and full-body movement. Get your students involved in nature as much as possible. Let them play with soil, sand, and water whenever possible.

Museum Resources

Early Childhood School Adventures at the Museum

Bring your students to the Museum and let our educators lead the class on your chosen adventure.



- **Animals in Action.** Explore several animals and learn how each moves in their own special way. Students wiggle and slither like a snake, crawl like a turtle, and leap like a frog. From the discovery of how animals move, students draw conclusions about animal locomotion. Students listen to stories and investigate a live animal from the Museum's collection. Children move and groove to animal inspired music and enjoy an art making activity.
- **Sing, Chant, and Move to the Beat.** Discover where sound comes from, how it is produced, and how we hear it. Students explore the science of sound by conducting experiments; students will participate in rhythm and movement activities and learn about the African tradition of call and response. Through story telling, songs, and chants, students explore rhythm while moving their hands, feet, and bodies to the beat.
- **What's for Dinner?** Discover different types of animals who have unique diets. What and how do animals eat? Investigate and decipher how some animals only eat meat, while others may eat only fruit and plants. Students learn how to classify animals as carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore based on the shape of their teeth and the foods they eat. Students examine skulls and teeth of animals from the Museum's science collection.
- **Building in our Environment.** Children will enjoy listening to the classic story *The Three Little Pigs* and discussing what materials the characters used to make their homes. Students will learn how the environment determines the materials and designs of homes around the world. Students will explore the visiting exhibit **Building Brainstorm!** and examine building materials such as straw, leaves, mud, and ice. They will also have the opportunity to create a "Blueprint" of their dream home.

- **Journey into Space.** Take a journey into the final frontier. Discover how astronauts live and work in space by exploring the visiting exhibition, **Living in Space**. Students will learn about rockets and planets and examine tools that astronauts use for their work. They will also have fun dressing up as astronauts, listening to stories of outer space, and blasting off singing the "rocket song."

Cost is \$125 per adventure

Contact our Scheduling Secretary at (718) 735-4400 x118 for information.

Professional Development for Teachers

Bring us to your school or arrange for a group of teachers to come to the museum to learn tips and techniques for how to bring Brooklyn Children's Museum magic into your classroom.

- **Teaching Music to Early Learners.** Explore how children learn about the world through the music featured in the *World Brooklyn* exhibition. Discover how children use their five senses to play instruments and learn the science behind sound. Learn strategies to develop inquiry-based lesson plans for the classroom that include storytelling and object-based activities that enhance classroom practices.
- **Using Inquiry to Teach Science to Early Learners.** This workshop focuses on guiding teachers toward building their student's abilities to pose questions. Learn how to nurture students' inquisitive thinking about their world through open-ended questioning that stimulate and promote scientific inquiry skills. Discover inquiry-based learning techniques and how to implement these concepts in the classroom. Investigate how to provide an environment for students that promotes questioning.
- **Teaching Teachers to be Museum Educators.** Learn how to implement inquiry-based learning in the classroom by using everyday objects and Museum quality artifacts. Discover how to garner information by using objects from the Museum's **Portable Collection Cases**. Experience how to facilitate the Museum's gallery experiences to support your classroom themes.

The Museum's Portable Collection Cases—A Museum in Your Classroom

Bring the excitement of teaching with museum objects to your classroom. Each case contains objects, media, books, and a teacher's guide with activities and other information.

- **Dolls of World Cultures.** Investigate dolls from several parts of the world to learn about different cultures.
- **Masks.** Explore masks from Guatemala, Indonesia, Papua, New Guinea, West Africa and the Northwest coast to learn about their culture and the importance of masks in celebrations.
- **Musical Instruments of Africa.** Discover musical instruments from Africa such as an angle harp, kettle drum, rattles, bell and a thumb piano.
- **Butterflies.** Learn about 30 different specimens of butterflies and the process of metamorphosis.



The Museum's Portable Collection Cases continued—

- **Fossils.** See a collection of real fossils such as dinosaur footprint, petrified wood, and a trilobite.
- **Shells and Sea Life.** Examine specimens that are found in or around water such as abalone, spider conch, octopus, and 15 other preserved marine animals.

Rental is \$85 for two weeks (delivery and pickup in Brooklyn is included).
Contact our Scheduling Secretary at (718) 735-4400 x118 for more rental information.



Play Tips

- Reflect the emotions your students express in their play and actions, this labels and validates children's feelings. Help them find words that express what they are feeling.
- Allow your students to use repetition in their play. Repetition helps them learn and master activities.
- Get your students involved in nature as much as possible. Take a trip to a park or a green space near your school and let them play with soil, sand and water whenever possible.

MORE Resources . . .



Websites—

- National Children's Bureau: Children's Play Information Service: www.ncb.org.
- Alliance For Childhood: www.allianceforchildhood.net.
- International Association for the Child's Right to Play: www.ipausa.org.
- Playing for Keeps—Play ideas and resources for parents and educators: www.playingforkeeps.org

Additional Curriculum Resources—

- *Activities for School-Age Child Care.* Barbara Blakley, Rosalie Blau, Elizabeth H. Brady, Catherine Streibert, Ann Zavitkovsky, Docia Zavitkovsky. National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1989.
- *Multiple Perspectives on Play in Early Childhood Education.* Olivia Saracho, Bernard Spodek Albany, NY State University of New York Press, 1998.
- *Busy Fingers, Growing Minds.* Rhonda Redleaf. Redleaf Press, 1993.
- *Learn and Play the Recycle Way.* Rhonda Redleaf, Audrey Robertson. Redleaf Press, 1999.





BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM'S MISSION

The mission of Brooklyn Children's Museum is to actively engage children in educational and entertaining experiences through innovation and excellence in exhibitions, programs, and use of its collection. The Museum encourages children to develop an understanding of and respect for themselves, others, and the world around them by exploring cultures, the arts, science, and the environment. The Museum is recognized among cultural institutions for its leadership in addressing the educational, cultural, and social concerns of youth and families in our dynamic urban environment.

We are more committed than ever to our mission to create experiences and environment where children can be active, successful and confident learners by putting children at the center of the museum experience.

Developed by the Brooklyn Children's Museum

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BROOKLYN
CHILDRENS
MUSEUM

touch the world!

