Preschool Learning Labs

Explore the wonder of literacy as children 3-5 years old listen and interact during story time and participate in fun, hands-on activities. You may add an inquiry and performance-based learning lab to your museum field trip for just $2 per student. Learning labs offer your group an in-depth, hands-on program led by a museum educator with topics that supplement what you are teaching in the classroom.

Labs have a limit of 20-25 students at one time. Classes with more than 25 students need to break up into multiple labs.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Come see how a very hungry caterpillar eats his way into becoming a beautiful butterfly. We will read the story by Eric Carle and then make the life cycle of a butterfly wheel. Each student will also create their own beautiful butterfly!

Tyrannosaurus Reg
When Reg hatches from his egg, he is frightened by the world around him. What will this baby T-rex do? Join us as we read about Reg’s journey and then have our own dino fun! We will create dinosaur dioramas and do a little digging for dinosaur bones.

Engineering: Lego Cars
After reading If I Built a Car by Chris Van Dusen, students will use Legos to create a car that they can test on a ramp. Students will be experimenting with car design, weight and ramp height to make the car travel the farthest.

Simple Science
Children will listen to The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School by Judy Sierra and Stephen Gammell, and will then participate in hands-on science experiments that use common kitchen and household items to create things that ooze, bubble, and fizz!

Down on the Farm
What is life on a farm like? What do farmers do? Join us as we read a farm story and do some fun farm activities like planting seeds and making butter. Then visit the second floor of the Museum to continue the agricultural learning in our AgMazing exhibit.

Customized Programs
Have a special request or interest in a different topic? Give us a call and we will do our best to meet your needs. Call (309) 433-3450 for more information.

Museum Hours:
Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday & Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 1:00-5:00 pm
Member Mondays: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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