

Exhibits Release
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Have A Ball: Back for Good!



How do balls move? What makes them travel along a track, up and down hills, or off a jump? Find out on July 3rd at the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine when it opens its new permanent exhibit: *Have A Ball*.

Have A Ball made its original debut in 2006 as a temporary exhibit in the Museum's traveling exhibit space. The concept and design for the exhibit were originally inspired by the book *Raceways: Having Fun with Balls and Tracks* by Bernie Zubrowski. Over the past three years the Museum featured the exhibit twice more, each time improving on its original concept and design.

During its last installment, visitors made it clear to the staff that *Have A Ball* needed to be a permanent fixture at the Museum. To meet this demand the Museum has done the most extensive overhaul to date to create a brand new experience for the repeat visitors while still maintaining elements that had made it so popular.

Have A Ball is an interactive exhibit that teaches children of all ages about the physics of movement with balls. Narrated by Daisy, a curious pug dog, children are introduced to science vocabulary while being asked to test hypotheses and formulate conclusions.

Popular components include an adjustable ramp that lets children jump a ball into different cups by changing the slope and a challenging ramp with a rotating cup that teaches kids that timing is everything. New to *Have A Ball* is a twin ball launcher that lets children launch balls through tubes to the ceiling onto two different suspended ramps that wrap around the room.

The exhibit opens in the lobby gallery July 3rd for the First Friday Art Walk and is scheduled to remain up through the 2010 season. The Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine is located at 142 Free Street, Portland. Art Walk visitors can enjoy the museum for \$1 between 5pm-8pm. Admission for normal business hours is \$8 for children and adults and free for members and children under one.

For more information on the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine, please visit our web site at www.kitetails.org or call our exhibits department at 828-1234 x234.