



Have a Ball!

Introduction to the Exhibit:

The Have a Ball exhibit offers many opportunities for you and your child(ren) to take part in guided exploration. Throughout this space you can make your own ramp and alter its slope, experiment with the air launcher and roller coaster, try to land the balls in the turntable, figure out how the ball sorter does its job, explore the ramp wall...the possibilities are endless! Let your imagination go and Have a Ball!



The Power of Play

This exhibit encourages children to play in order to learn concepts that we as adults might otherwise take for granted. Children need hands-on experiences to understand cause and effect and other ideas that are quite new to their curious minds. Play is an excellent vehicle through which kids can experiment with problem solving, try to figure out how the world works and also develop new ways of thinking. Have a Ball encourages hand-eye coordination and motor development, allowing kids to pick up, hold, move and carry objects throughout the exhibit space. As this is a popular exhibit, it also encourages children to learn how to share, take turns and make choices that foster good habits in social play.

Look:

What part of this exhibit is your child drawn to?
What does this tell you about your child's interests?
How much time does your child stay in one area?
Does your child repeat a specific activity in the same way or try new strategies?
Does your child challenge himself or does he need additional guidance?

Listen:

Does your child make sound effects while playing in this exhibit?

Does she ask you (or other children present) questions?
Does he use new words because of this exhibit?
Are other parents offering tips on how to make the most of the activities in Have a Ball?

Ask:

What happens when you start the ball on different places of the Roller Coaster?
How far will the ball go if you use the air launcher?
What happens when the ramp is as steep as it can get on the Adjustable Ramp?
Can you make the ball roll uphill or change direction on the Ramp Wall?
Will you count how long it takes for the cup to travel around the circle on the Turntable? Will you count again with me to see how long it takes the ball to travel down the ramp? What do you notice? Can you predict when you should release the ball to make it land in the moving cup?

Key Vocabulary WORDS to USE in this Exhibit:

launch pressure energy slope ramp
adjust flat travel cup pace
roll jump steep friction speed

After Your Visit: The Learning Continues!

Keep the ball rolling at home by trying the following activity: Collect a variety of small vehicles (toy cars, for example) and balls (rubber, ping pong or foam work well). Provide sturdy blocks, flat pieces of cardboard, paper, and cardboard or plastic tubes (lengths may vary). Allow children to experiment creating ramps at different angles with the materials above and rolling various objects down the ramps. Ask your child to observe the speed of the different materials – do some move more quickly than others? Which are fastest? Slowest? Does the angle of the ramp affect the speed of the material? How so? Can you and your child come up with other round objects that you can roll down your ramp? What amazing properties of physics will you discover today?

**We carefully choose the props and toys included in our exhibits. All of these items are in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lead testing standards.*