



Bay Area Discovery Museum

Fort Baker
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Sausalito, California
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PUBLIC INFO
415/339-3900
baykidsmuseum.org

HOURS
Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm
Sat-Sun, 10am-5pm

ADMISSION
\$8 children (1-17)
\$10 adults
\$8 seniors (62+)
Free under 1 & members

NEWS

Winter Play Tips from the Bay Area Discovery Museum

- 1. Look at the Stars:** It gets dark early so even younger children can go outside after dark and look up into the sky. Try to choose a location where your view is not blocked by trees or diminished by streetlights. Look for shapes in the sky and make up a story about what you see. If you can identify a constellation, point it out. Tell a story about the constellation or go back inside and look up the story. You will find different peoples have different names and different stories for the most prominent constellations.
 - Young children are fascinated by the sparkling pinpricks of light in the night sky. Although the science that explains light years, nebulae, and galaxies, may be beyond their comprehension, hearing stories about the stars connects them to the larger universe. In addition, stories about constellations can provide an entry to the world of mythology. Children delight in and are very familiar with stories made up to explain the unexplainable.
- 2. Visit a Local Creek or Waterfall.** Once the rains come, our local creeks and waterfalls start to flow again after slowing to a trickle or drying up completely during the dry months. Look at all the life supported by the rains. You can find water bugs, crawfish, newts, and even fish in many local, seasonal waterways. Notice that all of the water in flowing down hill to the Bay. You can even listen at a storm drain in your own neighborhood to hear the water rushing down to the Bay just under the streets.
 - Now is a good time to begin to introduce to children that water is a precious resource. You can drop a leaf into a rushing stream to show children how water carries objects down-stream and that these objects will eventually get to the Bay. Have your child imagine what happens to trash and pollution as it is carried by our watercourses to the Bay.
- 3. Make Mud Pies.** Put on some old clothes and head outside for some old-fashioned, mucking around! Break out those beach toys and gardening tools. Get down alongside your child and join them in exploring their world and making up a pretend narrative to extend the experience. Be sure to give them time and space to have an uninterrupted play time.
 - Children love to get dirty and explore their world through physical interaction. It is how they learn. When you participate with them it shows them that it is acceptable to get dirty and explore with their bodies. For very young children repetitive actions like filling a bucket and emptying it reinforces their understanding of math and science concepts like volume and gravity. Sharing in your child's pretend narrative reinforces and extends their language learning.
- 4. Visit the Bay Area Discovery Museum:** The Museum offers a great place to explore the outdoors – with the indoors close enough to warm up. Check out the seasonal changes in our local foliage, especially the Willow Cottage, with its crown of green willow branches in full leaf. Scoop gravel in the gravel pit, or dig for treasures in the shipwreck. When it gets too chilly, stop in to the Café for hot chocolate for the kids, or lattes for the grownups!

About the Bay Area Discovery Museum

The nationally recognized Bay Area Discovery Museum is a one-of-a-kind indoor/outdoor children's museum that offers a full range of programs for children, parents, school groups and educators. Located on 7 and 1/2 acres in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area at Fort Baker in Sausalito, CA, the Museum's unique programs feature hands-on art, science and environmental exhibitions, performances, special events, cultural festivals and ongoing educational curricula... all with a focus on fun!