

Let's Play Program Idea Swap

1. Tina - painting with unusual items/tools- toothbrushes, large paint brushes, sponges, vegetables (e.g. potatoes, carrots, broccoli), soles of tennis shoes, etc
2. Beth - "Arts" Kiddie Kitchen. Cooking/food prep for ages 2 and up, fun with food and healthy eating.
3. Deb - Daily Fun-tivities! Several Staff facilitated activities each day include games, art projects, science demos, etc.
4. Sean- Garden in a Glove. Food Science gloves, cotton balls, seeds and water. Put seeds in fingers with damp cotton ball. Hang in window.
5. Tara- Meet the Maker Series- Look into your community for non-traditional educators- glass blowers, metal artists, and others who can share their work with visitors.
6. Jennifer - Portrait Dressup- we had one of our volunteers make costumes based on the portraits in our art museum (could also be done with posters). Children and parents dress up as their favorite portrait, hold a frame up for a picture, then go find their portrait. (most costumes were designed with items from Goodwill) 30 costumes in all sizes was about \$250
7. Gabrielle - Twisty Tales- Storytime with a twist! An active storytime that combines stories with yoga, movement, and dance
8. Sarah - helping build a city- Cardboard boxes, shoe boxes, scissors, construction paper
9. Anne - Make your own memory game- using donated scrap sign vinyl and scrap card stock, let visitors cut matching shapes out of sign vinyl and stick them to card stock- make a set of 20 (10 different shapes or colors).
10. Monica - watching little ones doing "grown up" dances is amazing! On themed days/ our own New Year's soc hop for example) teaching everything from the mashed potato to the thriller dance is a great crowd pleaser!
11. Christina - The Lost Tourist- 1. Dress up Staff to look like a wacky tourist (binoculars, Hawaiian shirt, etc.) 2. make a tourist guide with pictures of little bits of each exhibit (they can be obvious or little hidden parts) 3. Staff begs the kids on the floor to help find these little parts of exhibits. Accents help. Give Prizes.
12. Vicky - 1. We have a weekly drop-in program (free with admission) called Tuesday Travelers. Each week they learn about a different country and try some food, do a craft, read a story, or play a game. The children get passports and collect stamps each week. 2. Take four eggs and put tape on middle (easiest at room temperature). Crack eggs to empty out yolk. Cut with scissors around tape, so that you have four egg shell halves. Place them on a table in a rectangle and stack books on them. Can hold lots of weight. Shows strength of eggs because of dome shape. Can also have kids try to break egg by squeezing it evenly in the palm of their hand.
13. Elizabeth - "Little Artist's Workshop" a drop-off weekly art class for 4-6 year olds. The class emphasizes process art and targets afternoon kindergarteners. Class runs 9:30-11:30; ½ hour play; 1 hour art; ½ hour lunch- students are walked over to kindergarten.
14. Brooke - Messy Science- weekly class for young children and parents (ages 2-6) 3-4 open-ended science activities set up for parents and kids to explore together. Handouts for parents with activities to do at home and how kids develop when doing science.
15. Angela - Ice Painting- powdered tempera sprinkled on paper. Kids hold ice cubes and "paint" the paper- makes groovy colors and designs.
16. Julia- Book swap (evening event) Right before summer begins, hold this even- families bring their books they've read before the event and receive a voucher to pick out the same of books during the event. Everyone gets books that are new to them and you promote literacy.

17. Tara - Check out the PIE network playful innovative experiences. Great adaptable ideas for all ages.
18. Stacy toddler take over- Tuesday and Thursday Morning- Tots and caregivers activity time/ story/art
19. Tonya - Wiggly Weekends- every Saturday and Sunday we open an extra room of large motor toys for children to get their "wiggles" out.
20. Sara - Spaghetti breakfast with santa!
21. Corinne - Senior Tea with Santa- this program is an afternoon (or morning) tea with dainties to celebrate the Opening of our Holiday exhibit 'Eaton's Santa Village. Grandparents share the tradition of visiting this Santa's Village – that was once located in one of the largest shopping center in downtown Winnipeg- with their grandchildren
22. Tsvia - Summer nights- Glow in the Dark Poetry- multi-sensory experience about summer nights including sights, sounds, smells, tastes...we talk about imagery and then write/share poems that glow in the dark (black light)
23. Abbi- Build a Stamper: using old mouse pads die cut small items and use tacky glue to 1"x1"x1" blocks of wood.
24. Neil - Seuss Creations- Create a "Seuss-like" creature from recycled materials. Have students make a rhyme about their creature.
25. Neil- Science Shenanigans: Science Demo Show! Get kids excited about Science fun. Make O₂, CO₂, Bernoulli, Van DeGraff, etc.
26. Amber- Talk to potential sponsors about programming options- For example, a local health provider wanted to sponsor our museum in some aspect but wasn't sure how. We proposed a monthly "Let's hear it For Health" series, bringing in guest speakers, hosting activities, all which were then funded. This greatly increased our programming repertoire, and gave us leverage when resourcing people to come to the museum. We are looking for the same model for the Art room and other exhibits.
27. Laurel - Energy Awareness and Conservation Program- Free sponsored program offered to grade 1, 2, and 5 students to promote energy conservation at the schools and at home and create change at an early age so that the students can learn the importance of reducing their ecological footprint.
28. Audrey - START- our early childhood story art program- each week we choose a book with our monthly theme (i.e. Circus month) we will read the book and do a simple hands on Art project.
29. Brenda - Family Fun Day- 1st Saturday of every month. Theme 10-15 activities, games, art/crafts children and do together. Activities are for children of all ages tend to necessitate adult interaction. Always have parent education piece to take home. Best Family Fun Day: Celebrating Dr. Seuss B-day. Used 12 books as basis for activities. Birthday party theme w/balloons, cakes donated by area bakeries (they were awesome) for raffle. Some of the activities were toys parents/grandparents made when they were children (i.e. stilts made from tin cans that went with The Kings Stilts by Dr. Seuss. I always try to access some type of community support or materials for every Family Fun day.
30. Sharon Glick- STOMP ROCKETS- Rocket=paper and masking tape. Roll around PVC, loosely. Tape. Cut tip, tape. Add stuff (fins or whatever)... Note: see for example- <http://www.sciencetoymaker.org/airRocket/index.html> AMAZING! FUN! ROCKETRIFIC! Can launch vertically or horizontally. Can turn rocket into raptor and land on prey. Have contests with ridiculous prizes! Great for after-school, whenever, big event, etc. TOTALLY EXCELLENT.
31. Emily - Airheads. Extreme Coke Fountain- Drop mentos into diet coke and watch them explode into the air.
32. Rachel - Math Directional Signs- Post a sign pole in a common area and have visitors create directional signs- i.e., 15 steps to the bathroom- and add them to the post pointing in correct direction.

33. Loni - "Home Grown Science" themes: Slime+ Ooze, Water, Chemistry. Each Home Grown Science focuses on one of the themes. They are all joined by the fact that all elements can be found at home. They are given a cook book outlining each experiment.
34. Gigi - Parent/child reading club.
35. Beth - Hands-on portable carts filled with cool stuff
36. Donna - Fantastic Plastic- Recycle Exhibit create an environmental art installation- Guests bring plastic water bottles, decorate with Gel FX, string into a maze on PVC pipe. Draw attention to the health of our planet using 2 million bottles every 5 minutes.
37. Katie - Preschool Science Activities free to download. "Big Science for Little Hands."
www.scienceworld.ca 2 themes "wet&dry", "round the circle" more to come over the next two years.
38. Pam -Art Studio- Recycling- we use donated wallpaper books in art studio they make collages, note cards, etc.
39. Jenny - Dinosaurs are our most popular school age program. We use real bones and fossils to show around and then make our own fossils with the following recipe: 1 ½ cup flour, ½ cup salt, 1 cup coffee, ½ cup coffee grounds (for rock look), add more flour as needed. Mix it together similar to thick cookie dough push different items into the dough and let it harden for 24-48 hours and it will look like a fossil.
40. Amy - a spin on the play dough play: add cinnamon to the dough while you are making it so it has a nice brown color use the dough with model dinosaurs to play with dinosaur footprints and body prints. Roll dough flat and have the children free play with the dinosaurs and dough.
41. Colesie- Smoush and Squish- multi-sensory experiences for ages 2-4. 4-5 stations set up for children to freely explore. Materials rich in texture, colors like black, clean mush, clay, flubber etc.
42. Spencer.- interactive stories with children by using puppets and/or costumes.
43. Elizabeth - Fairy/(Elf) and Bug Houses- if you have a natural outdoor space- creating tiny houses with sticks, mud, fallen flowers, etc. for fairies. Can incorporate more fantasy or more science for pre-schoolers with flowers/butterflies/pollination. Houses are best left outside tucked under a bush or somewhere- but can be made in a box to go home.- Great with a May Pole Dance and May Day or Earth Day event.
44. Carly - In March we did a series of 3 programs: Re constructors. Gathered lots of each material, one for each day, spread all over the room with tape and scissors- newspapers, paper tubes, cardboard boxes. JUST BUILD!!! And signs for prompts to get ideas going.
45. Theresa- series of science based programs for elementary school kids that would end in a family science night where experiments/activities and experiences would be facilitated by students.