



**Staffing-** we have a Senior Education Manager who oversees the whole department and two Program Managers who act as both educators and team leads for the education staff. Including the Program Managers, the Education Staff consists of 8-9 educators, (some full time, some part time). We also have a Community Outreach Manager and Family Learning Manager who support the education team.

**Daily Programs-** here's a brief description of the programs we offer. Each program is planned three months ahead of time by the educator who will be teaching a majority of that program's sessions. All of the programs are free with museum admission. Each program generally lasts 30-45 minutes and can have anywhere from 10-60 kids in attendance with their grownups.

**Arts ala Carte-** ages 4 and up, Tuesday, Thursday at 10:00- Facilitated arts projects.

**Make Believe Matinee-** ages 5-8, Tuesday, Thursday at 2:30- Participatory theater play, pretending, dress-up, music, etc.

**Toddler Time-** ages 1-4, Monday, Wednesday at 10:00- General toddler fun.

**Clubhouse Capers-** ages 5-8, Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 2:30- General activity fun for the 5 and up crowd.

**Super Science Sunday-** ages 5 and up, Sunday at 3:00- Science experiments

**Under My Feet Over My Head-** ages 4-8 Wednesday at 1:00, Saturday at 3:00- Year round nature program.

**Backyard Explorers-** ages 4-8, Fridays at 10:00 Saturdays at 2:00- Outdoor summer nature program.

**Playworks-** for kids and their grownups- Thursday, Sunday at 11:00- a family workshop about everyday learning opportunities in the home.

**Storytime-** everyday at 11:30 or 12:00- storybook reading with activity.

**Monthly Themes-** our programs change monthly and are all planned around a monthly theme.

**May-** Get Caught Reading

**June-** Party

**July-** Stellar Science

**August-** Messin' Around-

**September-** Our Diverse Community

**October-** Boo-tiful Bugs

**November-** Blast to the Past

**December-** Holidays Around the World

**January-** Wild West

**February-** Big Red Fun

**March-** Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

**April-** Eureka! Inventions



**Program Favorites-** Here are just some of our favorite programs from this last year, hopefully something on the list sparks an idea at your museum!

**Arts ala Carte-**

Paper Making                      Edible (yogurt) finger painting                      Spin art(with salad spinners!)  
Wanted Posters                      Silhouette tracing                      Cave Painting refrigerator magnets  
Firefly Bead Nightlights (basically bead keychains made with UV beads and Glow-in-the-dark beads)

**Make Believe Matinee (theater programming)-**

Claymation                      Silent Movie Making                      Cardboard Box Town  
Magic tricks                      Ol' fashioned Radio Play                      Vegetable Taste Test Game Show

**Toddler Time-**

Giant Tooth Brushing                      Campfire sing-along                      Tie dye  
Luau party                      Pet Rocks                      Sink or Float water play

**Clubhouse Capers-**

Cookie decorating/frosting making                      Body painting                      Bouncy ball making  
World Dancing                      Carnivorous plant feeding                      Piñatas  
Black-light finger-painting (Vaseline glows under black lights!)

**Super Science Sunday-**

Liquid Nitrogen Demo                      Lasers and Prisms                      Ice Cream Making  
Bubble Gum Making                      Water Rockets                      5 Senses Stations  
Airplane Gliders                      Simple Electric Circuits

**Under My Feet Over My Head (nature)-**

Ant farms                      Animal Masks                      Microscopes  
Animal tracks                      Earth Worms                      Living Ladybugs  
Day old bagel+ margarine+ bird seed+ string= birdfeeder!

**Playworks (new learning to learn at home workshop)-**

Salad making                      Laundry time                      Road Trips!  
Bathtime



Here's a contribution for the idea swap- one of our favorite programs from last year.

## Silent Movie Making

### Materials needed-

- One cheap webcam,
- One laptop,
- Movie making software (we used the Windows Movie Making Software that came with Windows XP, iMovie probably would have been even better).
- Somebody familiar with movie editing software
- Costumes and Props as needed.
- Storyboard showing the scenes of the movie.

**Why Silent Movie Making?** Movies can be made very inexpensively these days (our only expense was 25 dollars on the webcam). Silent movies are great because all of the story and dialogue can be told through the title cards and music, which can all be set up and programmed into the movie making software ahead of time. The kids do not need scripts or lines for the movie to make sense. They don't even need to be quiet! All they have to do is dress up and pantomime along to the director's commands- a lot like the playing and dressup they are already doing in the museum!

The program can also be quite impressive- we were able to narrow our editing times down to about 30 minutes so that families could come back to the theater a half an hour later and view a finished project, complete with music and special effects.

**Educational Value-** There's a lot this activity can teach, depending on what the educator focuses on. It can give the kids a sense of history. It can be about reading and story structure. It can be about pantomime and melodrama. Or the different jobs on a movie set- actor, director, cameraman etc.

**Procedure-** (this is the super simple version! you'll obviously need some knowledge of your movie editing software, and a more detailed plan suited to your specific needs)

**1.** Introduce the topic, show the kids an example movie and storyboard. **2.** Pick actors and dress up. **3.** Film each scene of the movie separately (ours was a story about a snake interrupting a picnic- keep the story and scenes very simple!) **4.** Have everyone take a break. **5.** Use the editing software to drop your new footage between the already created title cards and rag time piano music. **6.** Add a "Sepia" effect along with a "Film Age" effect to all of the footage. **7.** Make any last minute adjustments and you're ready to invite everyone back for the movie premiere! The end product may look a little rough, but that only adds to the old fashioned charm!

