Two key goals were identified for “What If”

#1 Make it possible for visitors to gain an understanding of what it is like to be deaf or hard of hearing.

#2 Provide experiences for visitors to explore the ways in which people who are deaf and hard of hearing communicate.
the children’s museum in oak lawn
Our Mission

To positively impact a child’s potential in life through play-based education.
We Believe

That every child deserves an opportunity to reach their fullest potential in life.
We Help Them Achieve This
By
Inspiring discovery, promoting teamwork, building skills and reinforcing what the children are learning in the classroom.
We Do This

By creating inclusive, fun, educational exhibits and programs
My Motivation and Inspiration

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEi-foAz2g4
the children’s museum
in oak lawn
Easter Egg Hunt for Kids With Disabilities
Easter Egg Hunt for Kids With Disabilities

the children's museum
in oak lawn
What if
Ways to Hear?

Some children and adults are deaf, which means they can’t hear any sounds. Others are hard of hearing and can only hear some sounds. There are many ways these children and adults can “hear” in our world.

Hearing Aids
Some kids and grown-ups need hearing aids. Hearing aids make sounds louder, so people with hearing aids can connect to phones, TV, and computers.

Lip Reading
Some people can see. They can tell what people are saying by watching their mouths.

Cochlear Implants
A cochlear implant is a very small device. It’s worn behind the ear or in the ear canal. The cochlear implant turns sound waves into electrical signals that go to the brain.

Written Words
Kids or adults who can’t hear can learn to read braille or use a small machine that speaks words aloud.

Signals
Parents and teachers use sign language to communicate with children who can’t hear. Make signs with your hands and face to tell people what you need or want.

Draw Sounds & Hear OUTDOORS

Time to Sign
What if you can't hear?

Choose button to sign:
- I can keep it still
- Sleep song
- In a house
- Feelings

Guess what I am?
- In the water
- Leah's farm
- Did you know?
Having hearing loss can make it hard to identify familiar sounds. Permanent hearing loss happens when hair cells in the inner ear are damaged by loud noises. When these hair cells die, a person loses the ability to hear certain frequencies. This makes familiar sounds seem muffled. Damage to hair cells may also cause tinnitus, a "ringing" in the ears.
What if?  
Walking In Different Worlds  
05/13/2015
THE PATH TO SIGN LANGUAGE

• First researched Down syndrome
• What can I expect from the diagnosis?
• What is everyone else doing?
• When you find something, do your homework
• Give it a shot!
ITS TIME TO SIGN
THE CREATION OF LIL MIRACLES SIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMY
WHAT IF YOU COULDN’T HEAR
What if, we weren’t so different after all?
Madeleine Miracles
CEO of Lil Miracles Sign Language Academy
make believe make memories

Play is for Everyone

Layers of Learning
access/ABILITY

Stacey A. Swigart
13 May 2015
Created by the Boston Children’s Museum as part of the Youth Museum Exhibit Collaborative, access/ABILITY focuses on people with disabilities as active contributors to society, delivering the message that we are all more alike than different.
The Exhibit featured 5 areas...

Going Places – movement and mobility
Talk with Me – communication and hearing
Just for Fun! – activity and creativity
Think About It – challenge of learning
Invent It – design of objects in everyday life
• **Art**
  - “State of the Art” exhibit, from VSA-The International Organization on Arts and Disability

• **Music**
  - “We All Make Music”

• **Literacy**
  - Story Times with ASL (when available)
  - Braille
  - Differently-abled character books

• **Collections**
  - Toys “A Sibling’s Perspective”
  - “Everyone Can Play”
  - Assisted living materials, Inglis House

• **Theater**
  - Development of a new PTM “Puppet Pal”

• **Gallery Guides**
  - Volunteers from Inglis House
Melita

Developed with assistance from an advisory panel with Child Life Staff at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)

- Her name means “honey” or “sweet”
- Favorite color is green & she loves making new friends
- Diagnosed with Congenital Spastic Cerebral Palsy and uses a wheelchair to help her get around
- Age 7 and is in Second Grade
- Favorites: Giraffes, Cupcakes, TV: *Dora the Explorer*, Book: *Diary of a Worm*
- Wants to be an Explorer when she grows up!
A Sibling’s Perspective...

My big brother Matthew (or Matt) is a unique individual with a variety of interests:

Matt loves history.


Matt loves toys & collectibles.

Matt loves to play with and collect Matchbox® cars and Hot Wheels®. When he was young, he would “drive” them back and forth, or play with them on a racing track. Most of the time, he would spend hours just lining them up in rows again and again. He still likes to line them up. He collects anything “Elvis” and has quite a menagerie of plush toys, Labrador dogs and raccoons.

Matt loves music.

Elvis Presley
Johnny Cash
Pete Townshend
Lionel Richie

Happy Goodlins
Lawrence Welk
Charlie Pride
Tim McGraw

The Chipmunks
Alan Jackson
Rogers & Hammerstein
Creedence Clearwater...

Just to name a few. His records, cassette tapes and CDs cover his bedroom.

Matt loves “outer space.”

Matt will read books and magazines about NASA, the Space Shuttle program and anything Star Wars. He enjoyed playing a record album about the inaugural space shuttle Columbia flight over and over and over again.

Matt loves his family.

He is sensitive, caring, kind, obstinate, fun, playful, annoying, humorous and he is my brother. The best brother a sister could have. Matt was born with Rubinstein Taybi Syndrome.

—Stacey Swigart, Curator of Collections,
Please Touch Museum
PLAY IS FOR EVERYONE
What is Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome (RTS)?

RTS is a rare syndrome. Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome refers to a specific pattern of physical features and developmental disabilities which occur together in a consistent fashion. Individuals with RTS have short stature, developmental delay, similar facial features, and broad thumbs and first toes.

The condition was first described in 1963 by Dr. Jack Rubinstein and Dr. Hooshang Taybi who recognized this pattern in seven unrelated children. Since 1963, there have been over 400 individuals reported with the Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome. Although the exact incidence is unknown, it has been estimated that approximately 1 out of 125,000 person has the Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome. The condition occurs with equal frequency in males and females.

A recent study reported that 100% of individuals with RTS have a specific chromosome mutation.

Read more about it:
http://www.rubinstein-taybi.org

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital has an ongoing program for people with RTS:
http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/wyar/alphaen/default.htm
After the Exhibit...

- Melita – permanent PTM Puppet Pal
- Play Without Boundaries (special access times)
- “Quiet Space of the Day”
- Sound-Reducing headphones available
- Wheelchairs available for children and grownups
- ‘Museums Stories’ available on www.pleasetouchmuseum.org to discover what you might find in advance of your visit
- Assisted listening devices available for tours
- Therapeutic memberships
- Regularly-scheduled sensory programs
- Staff training