Reset the Mindset of Field Trips

Children’s Museum of South Dakota

Kati Hanson, Director of Guest Services
Carrie Benson, Director of Education
● Renovated 1936 school building
● Opened September 2010
● 44,000 square feet indoor / 1.5 acre outdoor play space
● 105,000+ annual visitors
● Medium museum
- Brookings, South Dakota
- 4th largest city
- 24,000 residents
- Eastern South Dakota
- South Dakota State University
- Nearby downtown Brookings
Evaluation Techniques
External Evaluation Techniques

• Post-visit survey for teachers
• Informal conversations with students, chaperones, and guests
Internal Evaluation Techniques

• Museum wide SWOT
  • Strengths
  • Weaknesses
  • Opportunities
  • Threats
• All departments involved
Outcomes of our SWOT

- Re-Imagine our use of spaces
- Incentives
- Strengthening human capacity
- Streamlined communication
Additional Outcomes of our SWOT

• Max capacity lowered
• Re-imagining our “Field Trip Season”
• Increase in cleaning/maintenance support
• Sensory Friendly Play
• Using social media
Re-Imagine Use of Spaces
Space Utilization

• Lunch Spaces
• Pop-Up Play
• Zoning for staff
• Multiple drop off/parking locations for buses
Incentives
How about a Brookings Road Trip adventure? Head to the Children’s Museum and meet Mama T. Rex, our life-sized dinosaur. Visit the Hillcrest Aquatic Center. Check out Brookings Great & Go to BROOKINGS.COM #PLAYALONGSD

PLAYING IS HUNGRY WORK

Present this card for one free child admission with purchase of one adult admission and one free SDSU ice cream cone at Cafe Coteau.

CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

VISIT US
821 4th Street
Downtown Brookings, SD
800-282-3790
sdmuseum.org

MUSEUM HOURS
Tues.-Sat. 10-5
Closed Mem. Day
Closed Most Holidays
School Programs

School Programs
Thank you for booking your field trip at the Children’s Museum of South Dakota. If your field trip is booked from September through March, you may select one of the following school programs to enhance your experience. Contact Chance Slabicki, Group Reservation Coordinator, at 605.855.6760, ext. 240, or events@childrensplace.org for more information.

School Program Availability: School programs are available at no charge Tuesdays through Fridays from September through March. Programs are subject to availability and must be booked two weeks prior to your visit.

Tuesdays: 10 am, 11 am or 1 pm
Maker Studio reservations are 1 hour in length.

More To Do In 202 Winter and Beyond the Exhibit Demonstrations are two 20-minute experiences that run consecutively.

Chaperones: It is required that at least one chaperone stay with the assigned children at the museum’s requested time.

Maker Studio Reservation
The Maker Studio, located on the second floor of the museum, is a place where children can experiment with materials, tools, and processes used by artists, builders, and makers of all kinds. Through innovative thinking, imagination, and creativity, children will explore questions across a variety of topics in the arts and sciences. A museum staff member will be available for assistance. A visit to Maker Studio is offered upon request and is subject to change.

Group size: Our Maker Studio can accommodate up to 30 children at one time. During your reserved time, children accompanied by their chaperones will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

More To Do In 202 Reservation
Your group can explore additional museum exhibits a.m.

Big Blue Blocks — A playground with lots of blocks for children to build their own play areas.
Zoom — A zooming exhibit where guests can experiment with forces and gravity by designing their own ramps and testing them on the tracks.
Bails and Ramps — A space for your group to ramp up their attainment for engineering with ramp-making materials.

Group size: The More To Do In 202 space can accommodate up to 20 children. Prior to your visit, please ensure your group is split into two. Each group will have 30 minutes to explore during the reserved 1-hour time slot.

Beyond the Exhibit Demonstrations
Enjoy a small group activity made by one of our exhibit spaces led by museum staff.
Select from one of the demonstrations listed on the next page.

Group size: Demonstrations are designed for groups of up to 15 children. Prior to your visit, please ensure your group is split into two. Each group will receive a 20-minute demonstration during the reserved 1-hour time slot.

Show us how you #PlayAlongSD

[Image of a child at the Children's Museum of South Dakota]
Access Initiative

- Sensory Friendly Play
- Adaptive Equipment
- Scholarships
Strengthening Human Capacity
Teachers

1. Talk to Kids on Bus
2. Transitions
3. Check-ins
4. Lunch
5. Communication
Chaperones

Chaperone-First Mindset

- Perspective
- Educate
- Resource
Staff / Volunteers
Streamlined Communication
Communication with Staff & Volunteers

- Field Trip Packets
- Team Huddles in the morning
- 2-Way Radios

Name:

Lunch Time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>11:35</th>
<th>12:15</th>
<th>12:55</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party on 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party on 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central 201</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central 202</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th St. Gym</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*wipe down tables/chairs & sweep where needed
*empty trash and bring outside to dumpster
*bring down lunch carts when school is finished in room and put in coat room
*if the last group in that room—wipe down tables/chairs and put all chairs up on tables so Dora/Aaron can mop the floor
Communication with Groups

• One main contact person
• Group Reservation Coordinator

The goal is for the teachers and chaperones to be as prepared as possible when they arrive.
Materials groups receive prior to visit:

- Field Trip Reservation Form
- Field Trip Guide
- Chaperone Guide
- Driving directions
- Lunch Room reservation
Signage

• Lunch carts
• Lunch schedule

Sack Lunch Schedule

11:10-11:35
11:50-12:15
12:30-12:55
Thank You!