

# --- the learning expressway ---

*A roadmap to discovery for...*

## **Early Learning**

Our museum's mission fully supports the New Hampshire Early Learning Guidelines of growth, development and learning. The following excerpt is the introductory paragraph to the NH Early Learning Guidelines:



*“Supporting young children’s development and learning is a complex and exciting undertaking. Adults who work with and care for young children have a unique opportunity to encourage a sense of wonder and joy in both children and themselves. Key in supporting young children’s growth, development, and learning are:*

- ◆ *Play-based activities;*
- ◆ *A nurturing community of caring adults;*
- ◆ *Positive family interactions; and*
- ◆ *Fun and engaging learning experiences that reflect each child’s interest, family, and culture.*

*Such support, including the joy, wonder, humor, and love that adults bring to the child-adult relationship, is essential to children’s success in school and life.”*

Our family oriented museum encourages learning and discovery through play and adult interaction. Below are examples of how our museum integrates the seven domains of early learning and development into our exhibits.

**Physical Development:** How do young children use their bodies to explore and participate in their world?

At CCM, children use their bodies to explore hands-on activities in every exhibit including a climbing wall, exploring an airplane, fishing from a boat, or pushing a cart through the grocery store.

**Social/Emotional Development:** How do young children develop an understanding of themselves and others?

Children will play with existing friends and make new ones. They will investigate new environments and may participate in larger group activities.

**Approaches to Learning:** How do young children develop and use strategies to solve problems?

Children will interact and experiment with different materials, objects and people, try new experiences, and solve problems through trial and error. They will develop and employ strategies while learning from different hands-on exhibits to figure out

what to do, how to work with another child or take turns, practice counting, patterning, and role play.

**Creative Expression/Aesthetic Development:** How do young children express creativity and experience beauty?

Children will imagine, create and invent while at CCM and will use words, their bodies, objects and materials for self-expression. Whether enjoying our beautiful butterfly display, creating a woven work of art, or creating their own quilt pattern, children will be surrounded with creative opportunities and beauty.

**Communication and Literacy Development:** How do young children develop an understanding of language and use it to communicate with others?

Children will have numerous opportunities to listen, speak, write and read. CCM has engaging books in each of our exhibits to allow further discussion and literacy opportunities. Our Puppet Theater and Radio Station are fun venues to encourage creative communication and story-telling skills.

**Health and Safety:** How do young children safely assess and navigate risks, and develop healthy behaviors?

“Healthy U” is an exhibit devoted to taking care of our bodies. Our current exhibit promotes healthy care of our teeth, eyes and ears. In addition, our Grocery Store/Diner area encourages and promotes healthy eating by allowing children to select foods for a healthy plate, cook and serve healthy meals and learning that “you are what you eat”!

**Cognitive Development:** How do young children develop an understanding of how the world works?

Children will start to understand cause and effect by investigating coins swirling down a tunnel. They may make predictions about what will happen next or group and order objects according to special features in our “Textile Town”.

We’ve designed the museum in hopes that children will want to return again and again and that each time, they will discover something new about themselves and their world.