



Crown Family PlayLab Program Policies

Frequently Asked Questions

What programs are offered by the PlayLab?

The PlayLab offers families a rotating set of programs throughout the year, including the following:

- **PlayLab PlayDates** - Free, drop-in activities on select days for children ages 6 and under and their caregivers. General admission to the Museum is required to participate in these free activities.
- **Itty Bitty Explorer Workshops** - Two-hour workshops on select Saturdays for children 3-5 years old and their caregivers. Registration includes general admission to the Museum for the child and a caregiver.
- **Itty Bitty Explorer Camps** - Half-day camp for children 3-4 years old and their caregivers. Registration includes general admission to the Museum for the child and a caregiver.
- **Jr. Explorer Camps** - Half-day drop-off camp for children in Kindergarten - 1st grade. Registration includes general admission to the Museum for the child and a caregiver.

See all PlayLab Programs here: www.fieldmuseum.org/playlab-programs

What ages can participate in PlayLab Programs?

PlayLab programs have different age requirements. However, all programs require children to attend with a caregiver who is at least 18 years old.

- **PlayLab PlayDates:** Ages 6 and under

- **Itty Bitty Explorer Workshops** - 3-5 year olds
- **Itty Bitty Explorer Camps** - 3-4 year olds
- **Jr. Explorer Camps**: 5-6 year olds

Does a caregiver need to be in attendance?

Itty Bitty Explorer Workshops and Camps require a caregiver! Itty Bitty programs are **not** drop-off programs. A caregiver who is at least 18 years of age needs to be present with a maximum of 3 registered children.

Can I purchase tickets in-person or over the phone?

Tickets are available online only.

Can I purchase multiple tickets for the same program?

Yes. You can register multiple children for the same PlayLab Program. You will need to complete a new registration form for each registered child. When caregiver attendance is required, the maximum ratio is 3 children per caregiver.

Note: PlayLab PlayDates do not require registration.

Does my registration include admission to the Museum?

Yes. All program registrations include full-day access to the Field Museum for the registered child and their attending caregiver. However, if you are attending a free, drop-in PlayLab PlayDate, you will need to purchase general admission tickets to gain entry to the Museum where you can enjoy these free, drop-in activities.

When does registration close for PlayLab Programs?

Registration closure varies by program.

- **Workshops** - Registration closes 24 hours prior to the start date.
- **Day-Off & Summer Camps** - Registration closes 1 week (5 business days) prior to the start date.

- **PlayLab PlayDates** - Registration is not required.
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How can I get there?

The Field Museum is in the heart of Chicago's Museum Campus, at **1400 South DuSable Lake Shore Drive**. Guests can get here by car, public transportation, or bike. To learn more about directions, travel and parking, visit our website at: www.fieldmuseum.org/visit/directions-parking

Where can I park?

Individuals participating in PlayLab Programs will be required to manage their own parking needs. Guests visiting Museum Campus will have the option to park in a few different lots owned by the Chicago Park District and managed by an outside vendor, SP+ Parking.

We encourage caregivers to research parking before traveling to the Museum. There are plenty of garages outside Grant Park that offer accessible parking. Helpful apps like **SpotHero** can offer families affordable parking options that are just a 10-minute walk from the Museum.

If you'd like to park close to the Museum, the **Soldier Field North Garage** or the **East Museum Lot** will be the two closest options. Costs associated with both lots are subject to vary:

Soldier Field North Garage

\$27 for up to 4 hours, \$32 for up to 12 hours. The North Garage (accessible via the main entrance on Museum Campus Drive) is open from 5am to 5pm every day. Parked cars can leave after closing hours, but overnight parking is not allowed.

East Museum Lot

\$32 for up to 12 hours. The East Museum Lot (located on the east side of the Field Museum) is open from 9am to 3pm daily, and is accessible via the main

entrance on Museum Campus Drive. Parked cars can leave after closing hours, but overnight parking is not allowed.

Street Parking on Solidarity Drive

Street parking is available along Solidarity Drive. The metered rate is generally \$2.50/hour, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Rates vary and are subject to closure by the City of Chicago.

Note: Rates and availability of parking at Soldier Field are subject to change without notice, particularly on days with Chicago Bears home games and Chicago Fire home matches. Please see details and options at [Soldier Field Parking](#). Other events at Soldier Field and Huntington Bank Pavilion at Northerly Island can affect traffic, parking availability, and rates.

Where do I arrive for PlayLab Programs?

- **PlayLab PlayDates:** PlayLab PlayDates will take place directly in the *Crown Family PlayLab*, located on the Ground Level in the East Wing of the Field Museum. We suggest that interested guests make their way to the PlayLab at least 10 minutes prior to the PlayDates start time.
 - **Workshops & Camps:** This program will begin and end in the *Crown Family PlayLab*, located on the Ground Level in the East Wing of the Field Museum. Registered participants will receive an informational email with arrival details prior to the session.
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Can siblings attend if a caregiver is required?

Possibly. Take a look at our policies for each PlayLab Program below.

Can siblings attend?

- **PlayLab PlayDates:** Yes! These free, drop-in programs are open to all family members. However, please keep in mind that these activities are designed for 6 year olds and under. Siblings are still encouraged to attend to share in the fun!
- **Workshops & Camps:** Children not of walking age (typically 18 months and younger) are welcome to attend with their sibling and caregiver at no extra charge. However, children of walking age (typically 18-35 months) are not permitted to attend the program alongside the registered child.

Please reach out to the PlayLab team at playlabevents@fieldmuseum.org if you have questions about siblings participating in PlayLab Programs.

Can I register my child for a program if they're outside the listed age range?

Our programs are designed for a specific age group to make sure activities are developmentally appropriate and to ensure a safe and successful experience. For this reason, children need to be enrolled in a program that matches their age or grade. We are happy to assist you with finding a program that best fits your child.

What are the minimum and maximum attendance thresholds?

- **PlayLab PlayDates:** There are no minimums needed for these programs to run. However, they typically host anywhere from 10 to 50 participants.
- **Workshops & Camps:** These workshops require at least 3 registered children to run, and can host up to 12 registered children.

Note: If a PlayLab Program experiences under enrollment, it may be subject to cancellation up to one week before the start date. If this happens, refunds or program transfers will be administered to registered families.

What is the cancellation and refund policy?

To receive a refund, you must cancel your registration **one week before the program begins (5 business days)**. After this window, no refunds will be issued (even in the case of transportation issues, illness, family emergency, etc.). Cancellations can be completed by contacting the PlayLab team at playlabevents@fieldmuseum.org. We are happy to move your camper to another PlayLab Program of financial equivalency pending availability.

Refund Policy Exception: If your session is canceled by the Museum (most likely due to low registration), you will be given the option to transfer your purchase to another PlayLab Program of financial equivalency or receive a full refund.

Are there scholarships available?

- **PlayLab PlayDates:** These are free, drop-in programs that do not require payment or pre-registration. As a result, no scholarships are needed for these activities.
 - **Workshops:** Scholarships are not available for these programs at this time.
 - **Camps:** Yes, financial assistance in the form of a 50% OFF scholarship is offered to a limited number of eligible families. The Scholarship Application Form can be found on our website when camp registration is live.
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Who leads PlayLab Programs?

The Field Museum's Education Department will operate, run and facilitate all PlayLab Programs. For the most part, programs will be facilitated by the Early Childhood Programs Educator in conjunction with the Family Programs Manager and Program Assistants. On occasion, museum scientists, third party vendors, and outside cultural organizations will be invited to facilitate program experiences.

What are your COVID-19 policies?

If your registered child and/or caregiver feels sick, they should stay at home and contact our team to reschedule your session. Children and/or caregivers who test positive for COVID-19, but do not show any symptoms, may attend another PlayLab Program after five days of isolation. Children showing symptoms of COVID-19 may rejoin a PlayLab Program five days after a positive test or onset of symptoms (whichever is later) if their symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Currently masks are optional for children and their caregivers unless they have tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 10 days. The Field Museum is not requiring proof of vaccination for campers. Field Museum staff are still required to be vaccinated.

These protocols may be updated from time-to-time in accordance with guidance from the CDC, state and local health departments, governmental public health and safety orders, Museum policy, and evolving best practice. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. By visiting The Field Museum you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

I have more questions. How can I get in touch?

Please email playlabevents@fieldmuseum.org with any questions or need for additional information.