The Playful Museum
Manchester Museum

The Playful Museum project aims to enhance the well-being and happiness of children and families who visit through supporting more opportunities for children’s directed and undirected, free play. Through the Playful Museum project we have looked at how staff can learn from innovative work in the Play work sector and embed new, creative ways of working which can support playful opportunities.

“Teenagers cardboard surfing on the link bridge”  VSA observation

We have trained 30 Visitor Services Assistants and Discovery Centre staff over 2 sessions and presented at a Manchester Museum all staff briefing.

3 Playful Days, all focusing on themes that link with Manchester Museum’s collections and using recycled materials.

“Thought we’d set up dinosaur bowling but before we could put the sign up some children turned it into something much better. Dinosaur hockey!!”  VSA observation

“Initially quiet, mum approached and stood on bubble wrap and then turned to me and smiled like she was seeing if it was okay. Son also approached, you could tell he was imagining the spider was alive, then both started jumping between the spaces trying not to pop the bubble wrap.”  VSA observation

Can you make the missing body parts for Maharaja the elephant?

“Looked like he wanted to have a go but a bit unsure so I said ‘you can make as much mess as you like’ and he then got involved.”  VSA observation

VisitMM
Have you seen any goose eggs on our galleries?! If you find one @McrMuseum today, make sure to tell our staff (look out for the pink badges).
24/08/2012 15:35
VSAs tweeting about playfulness

VisitMM
Building dens @McrMuseum for our animals on Living worlds gallery. Going very well but we need more help, we have so many animals to house
24/08/2012 12:35
VSAs tweeting about playfulness