



The Children's Museum awarded Petit Grant for reopening of Early Childhood Learning Lab

WEST HARTFORD, CT (May 17, 2021) – The Children's Museum in West Hartford received a \$10,000 grant from the Petit Family Foundation to help refurbish and reopen the museum's Early Childhood Learning Lab.

The Early Childhood Learning Lab is an innovative initiative, a dedicated learning space featuring engaging interactive, inquiry-based educational learning stations and comprehensive outreach programming targeting young learners, aged 3 to 6. This initiative will provide resources to prepare children for school and give them the tools needed to expand learning growth. Outreach programs will bring these resources to underserved communities in the region, giving them access to educational opportunities to which they might otherwise have no access.

This generous grant will allow the costs of the Early Childhood Learning Lab to be met, allowing for a safe, fun and immersive environment for children and their families. Activities include learning stations designed to engage children and their caregivers and families as they learn together. These range from a looming wall to a parachute wind tunnel to a reading nook. The Early Childhood Learning Lab seeks to set children on a strong start to their educational path.

"This grant not only helps to bring our Early Childhood Learning Lab to a new and different level, it also continues the strong partnership between the Petit Family Foundation and The Children's Museum Group. We can say thank you, but the real thanks will be in the benefits that the children and families we serve get from their experiences," says The Children's Museum's senior development coordinator Joe DeFeo.

The Children's Museum looks forward to serving the multitudes of children, families, and caregivers that will visit, learn from, and reap the benefits of the Early Childhood Learning Lab.

More information on the Museum's exhibits and educational offerings can be found at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

About The Children's Museum

The Children's Museum and its Roaring Brook Nature Center are the region's premiere destinations for exploration and education. The Museum and Nature Center features hands-on exhibits, over 200 live animals, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and numerous programs for young children and families. The Children's Museum and Preschool are located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and Roaring Brook Nature Center is located at 70 Gracey Road in Canton. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

For more information on sponsoring an educational exhibit or program at The Children's Museum or Roaring Brook Nature Center, please contact Joe DeFeo at jdefeo@thechildrensmuseumct.org or (860) 231-2830 x240.

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