

Educational Background

The SpotHero Car Garage exhibit fosters exploration through dramatic play of how cars move and the importance of maintaining machines to keep them in working order. Children take the lead in their discoveries and make choices in their play, supporting developmental skills in many different areas.



Language Development – Children engage in role playing and have the opportunity to engage in conversations and learn new vocabulary.



Motor Skills – Children utilize fine and gross motor skills by manipulating toy cars, using mechanical tools, and moving through the pretend car wash.



Cognitive Development- Children are encouraged to use problem-solving skills to explore how cars move, the effects of inclined planes, and making connections between the exhibit and the real world.

Try it at Home:

Excerpt from National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) article, *Encouraging Your Child to Lead*, by Andrea Laser

“Both parents and children need breaks from their typical roles. It's important for children to have some control of their world. When children have opportunities to make decisions and increase their independence, they see that their own identity is important. They are able to build confidence when their thoughts and opinions are valued by those around them.”

Relax During Short Trips:

Next time you take a day trip together, let your children decide how long to spend at each area. In the Museum, if your children are most interested in one exhibit, it's okay to let them enjoy that area until they are ready to move on. It's surprisingly freeing and peaceful to just appreciate time with your children without worrying about what you might be missing if you can't cover the entire attraction. Before rushing them along, ask yourself why you are enforcing time limits. If there is no important reason to rush, let children be the timekeeper.

Expand Their Ideas:

By allowing children to communicate ideas and helping them expand on their thoughts, we help children develop their divergent thinking and build confidence. It also encourages their creative thinking, and shows them our respect.