

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM at SARATOGA

Where learning and play go hand in hand.

Lemon Volcano

Make a mini volcano using only a lemon and some baking soda! This fun and easy to do experiment stimulates curiosity and is lots of fun to play with. Kids will be able to explore and squish in this boredom busting blast!

Materials:

- 1 lemon per volcano, plus 1 or 2 lemons for extra juice
- Baking powder
- Food coloring
- Dish soap
- Tray or plate
- Cups and spoons
- Craft sticks
- Sharp knife
- Measuring spoons

Directions:

1. ADULT ONLY: Cut the end of each lemon so they sit upright on the table. Use the sharp knife to cut a cone shape out of the top of each lemon about 1 inch across.
2. Have your child use a spoon or craft stick to mush the insides of the lemon.
3. Squeeze 1 or 2 extra lemons into juice and add this extra juice to each volcano.
4. Help your child choose a color to place in their lemon and add a few drops.
5. Place a drop of dish soap in each volcano mix.
6. Finally, have your child add a teaspoon of baking soda to the volcano and watch it fizz!

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM at SARATOGA

Where learning and play go hand in hand.

Sparkle Dough

Slime, dough, and puddy make for perfect sensory experiences that also create fun play! Make your very own soft, fluffy, and sparkly sensory dough for your child...or even yourself.

Materials:

- 1 cup conditioner
- 2 cups cornstarch
- Food coloring
- Glitter
- Essential oil or other fragrance
- Large bowl
- Mixing spoon

Directions:

1. Add the conditioner to a large bowl.
2. Thoroughly mix in any added fragrance, coloring and/or glitter, if you'd like.
3. Carefully mix in the cornstarch. The cornstarch can be very messy so add in slowly.
4. Once the ingredients are completely mixed your dough is ready!
5. Place in a Ziplock bag when not in use to make it last longer.

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM at SARATOGA

Where learning and play go hand in hand.

Mini Carrot Garden

This is the perfect time of the year to get a mini carrot garden started and what better way to do that than by upcycling an old jug! All you'll need is an old milk or juice jug, some soil, and seeds and you'll be on your way to some tasty garden treats!

Materials:

- A tall milk carton, milk jug, juice bottle, or similarly tall bottle
- Garden soil
- Small rocks
- Carrot seeds
- Small tray
- Gardening gloves
- Knife or drill

Directions:

1. **ADULT ONLY:** After you've found a good tall milk carton or juice jug, use a knife or drill to put a few small holes in the bottom to keep water from pooling up in the soil.
2. With their gloves on, have your child add a few small rocks to the bottom of their mini garden. Explain that this will help drain excess water and will also help to keep the plant from falling over.
3. Have your child fill it with soil, tapping on the sides every now and again to help the soil settle in.
4. Help your child decide how many carrots they think will fit in their mini garden. Have them use their pinky to make a small dent in the soil and add a seed. Have them cover all the seeds up.
5. Place the container on a tray or plate and have your child water it. Tell them to add a little bit at a time until it starts to come out of the bottom. Then stop.
6. Place it in a well-lit window, preferable on the southern side of the house.
7. Have your little gardener keep an eye on it over the next few weeks, watering it as needed until the carrots are ready to be picked!



Where learning and play go hand in hand.

Mini Garden Recording Sheet

Day	Observations	Height (cm.)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

69 Caroline Street • Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
P: (518) 584-5540 • F: (518) 584-6059 • www.cmsny.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM at SARATOGA

Where learning and play go hand in hand.

Water Cycle-in-a-Bag

Water travels in a cycle and you can help your child understand that with this simple science experiment. The sun **evaporates** the water in the bag, and as it cools it **condenses** onto the bag walls. This then **precipitates**, or flows back into the water, starting the cycle again.

Materials:

- Ziplock bag
- Water
- Permanent markers
- Strong tape
- Sunny window

Directions:

1. Use the markers to draw an ocean on the bottom of the bag, a sun in one corner, and clouds near the top. Add labels to help with letter and word recognition. You can even add the science words if you think your child is up to the challenge.
2. Add water to the bag to fill it about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ full. Push out some, but not all of the air and seal.
3. Using a good, strong tape, tape the bag to a sunny window. After a little while the water cycle will start to show.

Discussion: Use this tool to help explain how water evaporates to form clouds that carry rain all over the earth, keeping everything green and healthy. You can also talk about how all water flows to the ocean and that if we're not careful, so does all our pollution.

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM at SARATOGA

Where learning and play go hand in hand.

One Room Red Rover

Get some energy out and have a blast with this fun game! This activity is great for the whole family in a moderate to large room or in your backyard. This game helps reinforce color and pattern recognition all while being a wildly good time!

Materials:

- 3 or more players

Directions:

1. Start with all the children on one side of the room and you or another adult on their knees in the middle.
2. Tell the children they will be called over, but not by name, but instead by a description such as a color or pattern of something they are wearing.
3. Tell them that when they match the description, they have to make it to the other side of the room without getting caught.
4. Once everyone has made it to the other side, the game starts again. Keep trying different ways to describe the kids, or even try other categories, like "whoever likes pizza, come over".
5. Keep playing until everyone is tuckered out.