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The Children's Museum will Expand its Programs for Toddlers & Preschoolers

West Hartford, CT (January 2, 2007)... The Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Connecticut) will develop new preschool and toddler programs and expand the museum's popular *All About Animals* educational program to younger audiences..

The Museum will establish a new Mom and Tots morning live animal and reading series, entitled *Tails and Tales*. Beginning this Spring, the program will include a 6-week series of mother and toddler morning sessions of live animal demonstrations, a related animal storybook reading, and games or craft activities. A Fall session will also be offered.

"The Children's Museum is pleased to offer this new program in recognition of the importance of the first five years of life in the cognitive development of children", stated Edward J. Forand Jr., the Museum's President and Chief Executive Officer. Forand went on to comment, "The Children's Museum is committed to serving the growing needs of this young age group and is significantly expanding its program efforts in the preschool area." The Children's Museum Preschool has recently launched an outreach program to bring its popular science based curriculum to other preschools and day care centers throughout the state. The Museum is also planning the creation of a play and learning space for toddlers.

The *Tails and Tales* fee-based program is geared to young children aged two and under, along with parental participation, and is made possible in part from a grant received from

the Gackstatter Foundation. The program commences at the end of April and will require pre-registration beginning in March.

The Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Connecticut) is committed to igniting the curiosity of young people through science and nature. In addition to the museum, the organization includes the United Technologies Wildlife Sanctuary, the Gengras Planetarium, Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, and The Children's Museum Preschool, one of the oldest preschools in the country. The Children's Museum serves over 200,000 people annually, and is the fifth oldest children's museum in the country, and serves more people than any other Connecticut museum. For more information visit the Museum's website at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

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