



The Children's Museum Providing Programs to Children & Families at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center

WEST HARTFORD, CT (June 8, 2017) – As part of a broader collaboration between the two organizations, starting in the fall, The Children's Museum (TCM) will provide a series of STEM enrichment programs for children and their families in the UTC Family Resource Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). This series is part of a recently launched robust collaboration between CCMC and TCM, both of which service the same demographic--young children and their families. This past March the Museum hosted the CCMC Injury Prevention Center's *Children's Safety Fair* which drew over 400 attendees. Planning has been initiated for the next element of collaboration, a *Family Health Seminar Series* to be presented by CCMC research scientist at the Museum starting next fall.

Topics for the STEM enrichment programs will include simple machines, physics, laws of motion, inventing, bridges, engineering, STEM challenges, electricity, magnetism, chemistry and polymers. Sessions will run 2 hours each and take place between October and March. "STEM learning for children and families is a key element of our mission at The Children's Museum," stated Michael Werle, Executive Director of The Children's Museum, "We are very pleased to be working with CCMC to help support children and families who are confined due to illness."

This program will be funded by Connecticut Children's Foundation 'Build A Smile' fund. The Build A Smile fund supports programs and activities that will stimulate, educate and build a smile on children's faces. "At Connecticut Children's, we believe that providing enrichment, learning and play opportunities can be extremely beneficial to the patients and families we serve. These fun and engaging activities help to normalize the hospital experience, ease stress and anxiety, and ultimately, aid in the healing process," said Kelsea Fortner, the UTC Family Resource Center coordinator. "We are thrilled to partner with TCM to bring these exciting learning opportunities to our families."

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 Renee Hartshorn at rhartshorn@thechildrensmuseumct.org or (860) 231-2830 x230.

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