



NEWS RELEASE --

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New Videos Showcase “The Museum Experience,” Enhance Accessibility for All Children

WEST HARTFORD, Conn (April 3, 2012) – In recognition of World Autism Awareness Month, The Children’s Museum today released a new [series of videos](#) that showcase “the museum experience” for children. The videos depict a number of experiences visitors may enjoy to establish a sense of comfort and reassurance about what to expect.

“A visit to The Children’s Museum may initially seem overwhelming to some potential guests,” said Robert Griesmer, President and Chief Executive Officer. “We’re thrilled to be in a position to provide resources that support a positive experience.”

Suggested by Dr. John D. Molteni, Assistant Professor and Director of the Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies at Saint Joseph College, the video series serves as a way to help young people prepare for their visits to The Children’s Museum. The Pita Group generously donated their time and talents to create the videos. The scenes were portrayed by members of The Hartford Children’s Theatre.

“Since autistic children learn best visually, video seemed like a perfect method to help educate them on how to experience the museum,” said Paul Pita, Principal and Executive Creative Director of [The Pita Group](#). “This is an innovative solution of which we were honored to be part.”

Available for online viewing at www.thechildrensmuseumCT.org, the videos include scenes which depict the following exhibits:

Bubble Mania: Can you aim the air burst to break the bubble?

Light Wall: Make beautiful designs with color and light.

Flight Simulator: Experience the thrill of piloting a plane over the desert or a mountain range.

Race Track: Build your own racing car and see whether yours goes faster than your friends’.

Shadow Wall: Strike a pose and see what it looks like in silhouette!

Test Track: Which ball gets to the end faster: the one going down a straight hill, or the one with lots of ups and downs? Are you surprised?

“The Children’s Museum’s willingness to make exhibits accessible to all children is a testament to their dedication to education and the needs of those with developmental disabilities, including those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder,” said Dr. Molteni. “These efforts should be applauded and it has been a great pleasure to work on developing practices that can potentially serve as a model for other such settings.”

The Children’s Museum features over 100 live animals, including the now famous Fennec foxes, hands-on science exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. The Children’s Museum and Roaring Brook Nature Center are the region’s premiere destinations for science and nature exploration.

The Children’s Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

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