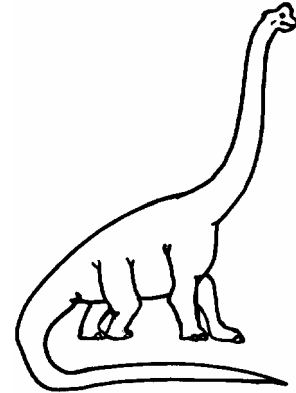


Parents and Guardians,

Take the bus, take the car, or simply walk to a museum near you. Museums offer both children and adults the opportunity to learn about art, culture, science, history, and so much more. They provide first hand learning experiences where children can see a painting, touch a fossil, or make their own hair stand on end. Plan a trip to a museum for your next family outing.



Planning your trip:

1. Get excited about the trip. Watch television programs, explore museum Web sites, or simply read a book such as *Visit to the Sesame Street Museum*.
2. Choose what type of museum you want to visit. There are museums for art, science, history, or specific events. Ask your child if he's been to any museums with his school? Would he like to revisit that museum, or try something new?
3. Find out what museums are located in your area. (If there aren't any, take a virtual museum tour on the Internet, or create your own artwork for a family museum in your house.)
4. Pick a specific museum. Contact the museum and find out what days and hours they are open. Do they have a program or tour just for children? Does it cost to visit the museum? How long does the average person spend there? What's the best way to get to the museum?
5. Plan your day out. Choose when you'd like to go. Do you want to stop for breakfast or lunch on the way? How much time do you want to spend there? Children experience different museums in different ways. They may want to rush through one exhibit, while another exhibit may keep them entertained for hours.
6. Enjoy your day! Take the time to appreciate what you are seeing. Look around and ask questions. Enjoy your time together as a family and learn a little along the way.

After the trip ask your child what she liked best about the museum. Did she like one particular thing that she'd like to learn more about? If so, work together to research that item. Would she like to visit that museum again? Would she like to try a different museum?

A trip to the museum can become a family tradition. Some families go to museums on certain holidays, some go once a month and some go whenever they have time. No matter when you go to a museum, this is one family trip that can have a lasting impact on children of all ages.