

**Dear Parents,**

Museums are great places to spend family time and explore other cultures. Bringing your young child to a museum helps them to learn new words and to discover the world around them.

On this card are tips and ideas for making your family's museum visits fun and successful. Use the other Cool Culture Hunt Cards to choose an object that interests your child and visit the museum to see it with your own eyes! Download them for free at [www.coolculture.org](http://www.coolculture.org).

Happy Hunting!

-Cool Culture

**Before A Museum Visit:**

**Where to Go**

Visit the Cool Culture website, [www.coolculture.org](http://www.coolculture.org), to choose which museum, zoo or botanical garden to visit. Download "Trip Tips" to help you plan your visit.

**What to Expect**

Talk to your child about where you will go, how you will get there, and what you will see and do. The better prepared your child is, the more comfortable he or she will be at the museum.

**Special Museum Rules**

Let your child know that most museums have special rules that keep the artwork and collections safe:

- **DON'T** ever touch the objects unless invited to do so. The natural oils on our hands can damage an object.
- **DON'T** run in the museum because you might hurt yourself, another person, or the museum's collections.

**However, there are lots of things you can DO!**

- DO** look around for objects that interest you and your child.
- DO** tell stories and ask questions about what you see.
- DO** ask if the museum offers programs for children or free family activity guides.

**During Your Museum Visit:**

**Color or Shape Hunt**

Ask your child: What colors are the objects in the exhibit? Go on a scavenger hunt looking for all of the objects in your child's favorite color. Can you find circles, squares, rectangles and triangles?

**1, 2, 3, Go!**

Young children love to count. In a museum, counting will encourage them to slow down and look carefully. For example, count the number of people in a painting, or the number of zebras at the zoo.

**Strike a Pose**

Encourage your child to pose like one of the characters in the artwork or exhibit (make sure you're not too close to the artwork)! Ask your child what the character is doing or feeling. Young children use their bodies to experience the world and this is a great way to do that, even in a museum.

**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words**

With your child, tell stories about the objects he or she sees: What are the characters in the painting doing or feeling? What will happen next? Imagine, where did this object come from?

**Take it Easy**

It's okay to make your family's visit to the museum a short one. Take breaks. Explore a few things that interest your family the most, and save the rest for a second visit.



**COOL CULTURE CONNECT:  
Connect beyond your visit!**

Before and after your visit, dial **718.408.2393** and listen to the prompts to discover more fun activities and program information from museums.