



## WHY A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM?

### WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM?

A children's museum is a community space that offers interactive learning experiences to build upon a child's development. The children's museum institution is committed to serving the holistic needs and interest of children and families.

Children's museums believe....

- Children are valued citizens with the right to access resources promoting development and well-being.
- Play is learning and it is critical to a healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development of children.
- Children are shaped by family, culture, and environment and the institution should reflect these in the museum experience.



### WHY PLAY?

Play is our brain's favorite way to learn. Deep learning takes place when learning is joyful, meaningful, actively engaged, iterative, and social. These are the very characteristics of play, and it shapes how a child develops. Play is also a way for kids to experience less stress, especially stressors caused by poverty. But play is not only beneficial to children, but it also influences family relationships. Playful experience between adult and child supports family bonding and well-being.



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### WHY DOES GALLUP NEED A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM?

#### IMPROVE LOCAL ECONOMY

#### EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS

A Children's museum is a resource that serves the needs of its community.

Unfortunately, 39% of children live in poverty. Children's museums offer hands-on learning experiences that promote cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and creative development. New Mexico is ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in education.

#### IMPROVE WELL-BEING

On the New Mexico Health Report in 2017, students were found less likely to be binge drinkers if they showed involvement in specific criterias like being involved in sports, clubs or extra curriculura activities, teachers will believe I will be a success, I plan to go to college or some other school, I am part of a group activities outside of home and school. (page 92) same with marijuana usage New Mexico Substance Use Epidemiology Profile <https://aae.how/322>

New Mexico is also ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in Family and Community indicators for well-being. (NM Voices, 2018).