

Help Us Build It – Green!

Coming Soon: Explore-a-thon

Interested in more fun activities? Westchester Children's Museum invites you to Explore-a-thon, an interactive walk-a-thon for children and families featuring hands-on fun. June 1, 9am-noon. Rye Playland Boardwalk. Register as a walker or a team. 421-5050 or www.discoverwcm.org.



Even though the Westchester Children's Museum is, for now, a "museum without walls," we believe that children learn by doing and that learning can be done anywhere – with or without walls. Experiential learning is the foundation on which we build all our activities and programs.

As Earth Day approaches, we'd like everyone to think GREEN! When the museum walls are built for the Westchester Children's Museum, we plan to use the best sustainable architectural, engineering and construction design practices available. We will incorporate a green sensibility in our design and project planning so that we attain the building's greatest efficiency while minimizing our impact on the environment.

Build a Green Museum

Materials:

- Biodegradable packing peanuts or reused packing peanuts
- Toothpicks
- Water

What to Do:

Provide children with the peanuts and toothpicks and let the learning (and the play) begin!

Explore Two Dimensional Shapes (for our younger Explorers):

- Make a triangle using toothpicks and peanuts. Now make a square. How many toothpicks did you use for each? How many peanuts?
- Can you make a circle with the toothpicks? Why not?
- Can you make the first letter in your name? What other letters can you make?

Help Build the Museum's Walls!

The Westchester Children's Museum will be built at Rye Playland as a vibrant, full-service cultural and educational institution committed to broadening knowledge of the arts, the environment, multiculturalism, diversity and the local and global communities for children ages birth to 10 with their families, caregivers and schools.

Your donations, volunteer time, enthusiasm and voices are welcome. The campaign to build the Westchester Children's Museum is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create something of true lasting value for the children you know and love and the thousands of others in the region who deserve to experience this vibrant learning institution. For more information visit www.discoverwcm.org.



Biodegradable packing peanuts or reused packing peanuts can provide hours of "green" fun. PHOTO BY JILLIAN MCALLEY

Explore Principles of Construction (for our oldest Explorers)

- Build a three dimensional structure.
- Can you make the structure stand up on its own?
- What happens when you remove a toothpick? How about two?
- Which toothpick should you remove first? Why?
- How many can you remove before the building falls down?

Follow up: Throw the biodegradable packing peanuts into a bucket of water and watch them dissolve just like magic.

Parents: The Westchester Children's Museum plans to use a geothermal heating and cooling system that utilizes the earth's own energy? We'll be "harvesting daylight" by using as much natural daylight as possible to reduce our use of electric lighting.