

Family Tool Kits



As part of a multi-year family programs initiative, the Museum unveiled *Family Tool Kits* in July 2007. The kits, designed for families with children of multiple ages, are loaded with engaging tools used to explore the Museum. Families or groups are able to check out the kits and use them to explore the architecture of the Museum's historic home by seeing, moving, touching and doing.

The *Tool Kits* illuminate various details in the museum that an adult group tour might experience. However, in using the *Tool Kits*, children have the experience of working with an adult to discover those details for themselves rather than being "told" about them. The current tool kits are as follows:



Tool Kit 1:

Patterns: Here, There, and Everywhere!

(For children ages 3-7 and adult companions)

Includes: creating architectural patterns using stamps and rubbings, making musical patterns, looking for patterns in the Museum, building patterns with mini bricks

Tool Kit 2:

Eye Spy: What Can You Find with Your Little Eye?

(For children ages 7-10 and adult companions)

Includes: binoculars and flashlights, eye spy games, drawing activities, custom jigsaw puzzles of details in the Museum's historic home



Tool Kit 3:

Constructor Detector

(For children ages 8-11 and adult companions)

Includes: measuring tapes, a measuring wheel, a level, magnetic compass, hammer and nails, etc. to figure out challenges and create an art piece to take home

The Museum's *Family Tool Kits* give young visitors a chance to use real tools and their own imagination, and in turn help them become more aware of and curious about the world we build for ourselves. Members receive complimentary access and the general public can use these for a nominal fee.

Since launching the toolkits, they have been used 526 times! *The Washington Post* reported on the Museum's creative and successful approach to augmenting daily family activities in an article on the toolkits in the fall of 2007.

To sponsor *Family Tool Kits*, please contact Development at 202.272.2448.