

# Building Zone



Central to the Museum's commitment to families is the goal to ensure that developmentally appropriate learning opportunities are available and accessible to families whenever the museum is open. The **Building Zone** is a key component of the Museum's dedication to provide families with daily offerings.

The **Building Zone** is designed especially for children ages two to six, and their adult companions. Since opening in April 2006, over 47,000 visitors have visited the exhibition. The **Building Zone** introduces children to the building arts through engaging activities focused around imaginative play.

Children have the opportunity to construct, design, build and explore including:

- building with oversized, soft Legos™ and building blocks
- reading architecture and construction related picture books
- playing with bulldozers and other construction play trucks
- pretending to be a craftsman complete with hard hats, gloves, goggles, and tool belts.
- exploring a life-sized, green-build playhouse donated by HomeAid and built by Pardee Homes.



Just as a building's foundation lays the groundwork for a structure, child-initiated play lays a foundation for learning. Through imaginative play, children learn to interact with others, to recognize and solve problems, and to gain confidence. Play helps children make sense of their place within the physical and social world.

Touted by the *Washington Post* as one of Washington, D.C.'s "Best Bets" for parents and children, the Museum has experienced a steady increase in the number of families attending its programs and events. Here's what visitors have to say about their experience at the **Building Zone**:

*"A wonderful visit. Entertaining and instructive for our son, and enjoyable for the whole family." – Maxmillian Kincaid Lindenburg*

*"INGENIOUS!" –Anonymous*

*"This is the Best part of the museum. My kids had a great time and so did we. Please keep this!" –Anonymous*



To sponsor the **Building Zone**, please contact Development at 202.272.2448.