



Kansas Children's Discovery Center Social Story 2025





Hooray! Today, I am going to the Kansas Children's Discovery Center in Topeka. I will have so much fun!

As I walk up to the building with my grownup, I might notice fun shapes and colors on the building.



I will go through the entrance with my grownup. When I go through the first door I might notice how tall the ceiling is before I go through the next door. Sounds might be different in this small room.



After I come in the front door, I will wait while my grown up checks in at the desk.

It's okay if I need to wait. I can step on the sensory mats to watch the liquid move inside while I wait!

I might notice toys to play with while we wait. These cost money and my grownup will let me know if I can touch them.



It is time to play! I know that I must stay with my grownup at all times. I know that I cannot go outside or to another room without my grownup. This is okay.

I will notice other children playing today, too. We can share the toys and have fun together!



This room changes, so there's always something new to explore!

Today, it's Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!

I can visit the Island of Sodor and see places like Knapford Station and Sodor Steamworks. I can help Thomas and his friends by building train tracks and solving puzzles.

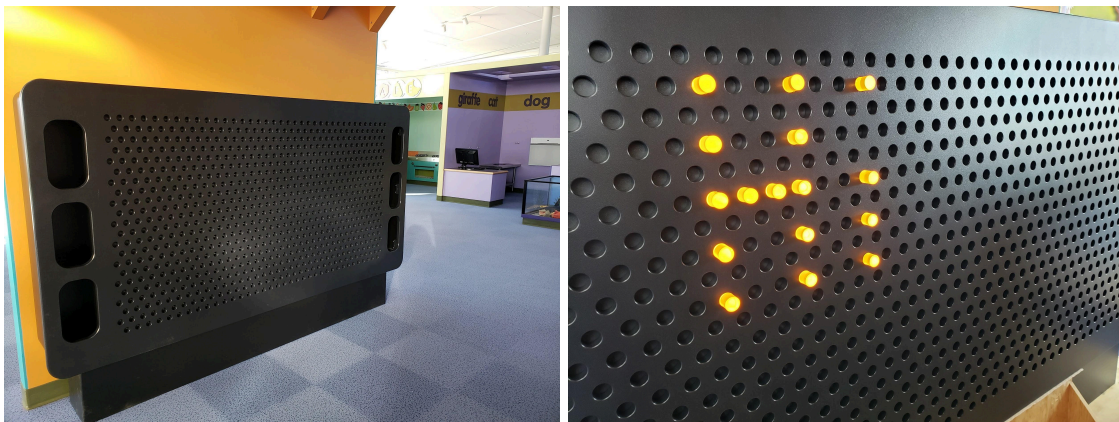
As I play, Thomas, Percy, and Victor will cheer me on!



I can sit (not stand) on the black seat and use the rope to lift myself. I will rise up away from the floor when I pull down on the rope. It might be scary at first, but I know the seat will lower safely if I let go of the rope.

The rope might hurt my hands. It's okay to let go of the rope at any time.

I know I need to wait until the seat stops moving to get up.



When I put the clear pegs in the black peg board a light will appear and might be bright. When I run my hands over the marble wall it will make noise and might feel funny on my hand. When I look into the bubble mirror, my body might look different than a normal mirror. This is okay.



The space inside this white fence is a safe place for children who are learning to walk while they play. If my grownup lets us go in here, I have to be careful.



I can pretend to be on a boat on water! I may have to share the fish and other toys with others. This is okay. The fish are squishy, and they sometimes make a noise when I squeeze them.



The color wheel is fun to spin! I can see different colors moving through the air. I can put one color over a different color to make a new color!



The air exhibits can be loud. Balls and scarves can be moved with air. Where will they go? I can share the balls and scarves with a friend so we can play together. I will let someone else have a turn too.



I can turn the handle and watch the large blue fin move. I can connect the gears and spin them. I can arrange and rearrange a path for a ball to travel down the wall.



I will see a place where I can pretend to be a baker, a doctor, a veterinarian, and a mechanic. I will see lots of fun activities for me to do. Would you like me to fix your car? Does your pet need a check up? Are you hungry? Do you need to set up a savings account? Let's go shopping! I can even put things back where they belong.

Sometimes there are different types of toys to play with in each space. This is okay if they are different.

I am such a helper!



I know this space is for babies who do not know how to walk and their grownups. This space needs to stay as clean as possible because babies like to put things in their mouth. This is why I need to stay out of this space unless my grownup takes me in there.

I can wave at the babies from my side of the white fence.
Hi, babies!



When I visit the Dinosaur Exhibit, I can explore and have fun! I can build with dino bones and imagine real dinosaurs. I can see big murals showing the dinosaurs that lived in Kansas.

I can ride in a jeep, climb rocks, and play with dinos—just like a real explorer! There is so much to see and do, and I can take my time having fun!



There are lots of things to build with here. I know I might need to share with other children. This is okay. I can build using all of the materials in this space.



I can build ramps and test the cars on the track!
Sometimes, my car might not make it all the way to the end. This helps me know that I can change my track and try again! I know that I will need to share the race cars and track pieces with others.



I can pretend to make and sell lemonade here. Sometimes other people will come up and want to pretend to buy some lemonade. This is okay.



I can be an artist and paint on the glass. I can wear a special apron to put over my clothes. My hands might get messy. This is okay.

I can help clean up my space.

I can wash my hands off when I am done.



This space has several handles I can turn and a pulley where I can raise and lower the pouch. We have to work with other people here to make the system work.

I hear a loud noise that sounds like a fan. There is a machine that is high up on the wall making that noise. It is here to help keep up safe.



This is a great place to take a break. I will get to see Vandyke the service dog in this area with his owner, De Jones.

If I need a snack, I know I need to eat outside at a picnic table.



This is where the restrooms are located. I know that I need to tell my grownup when I need to go so they know where I am.



If I get thirsty, I can go to the water station near the front desk to get a cup of water.



When I go through these doors, I enter the outdoor space.
My grownup needs to be with me when I go outside.



I can climb on the inside and outside of this. It rotates when someone pushes it and it might feel funny. It does not rotate very fast. I can ride on this or push this around and around.



This is a place where I can pretend to cook and bake. I can use wood pieces or other things I find outside.



This is like a swing. I can sit on the round disc while holding onto the rope. When I pull my feet up from the platform I know to hold on tight as I move from one platform to the other.

If I need help, I know to ask my grownup for help.



This is a place where I can draw and put on a show. Other people that I do not know may watch. This is okay.



Sand is fun to feel. I can pick it up and watch it fall back to the ground. I can bury my hands and feet into the sand. I can search for dinosaur fossils or climb on the triceratops structure.

I could play chess or play with the pieces. The pieces might be heavy.



Here I can use my muscles and climb!



In the woods, I can play on the pirate ship and pretend to sail at sea. I can also climb in the treehouse or sit in the hammock below! When I go down the treehouse slide, I will go fast.



I can choose to ride a trike. My grownup will help me ride safely. I know I need to return the trike back by the trike shed so others can have a turn.



I am allowed to explore the prairie if my grownup comes with me. To get to the prairie, I have to go out the front door by the front desk. I can only go out those doors with my grownup.

There are lots of different grasses, flowers and insects in the prairie. If I see a bug that scares me, I can leave it alone and walk away from it. It's okay to be scared of insects.



We can leave the museum through the same door we used to enter.

I hope I can visit the museum again soon!