

MAYOR OF LONDON

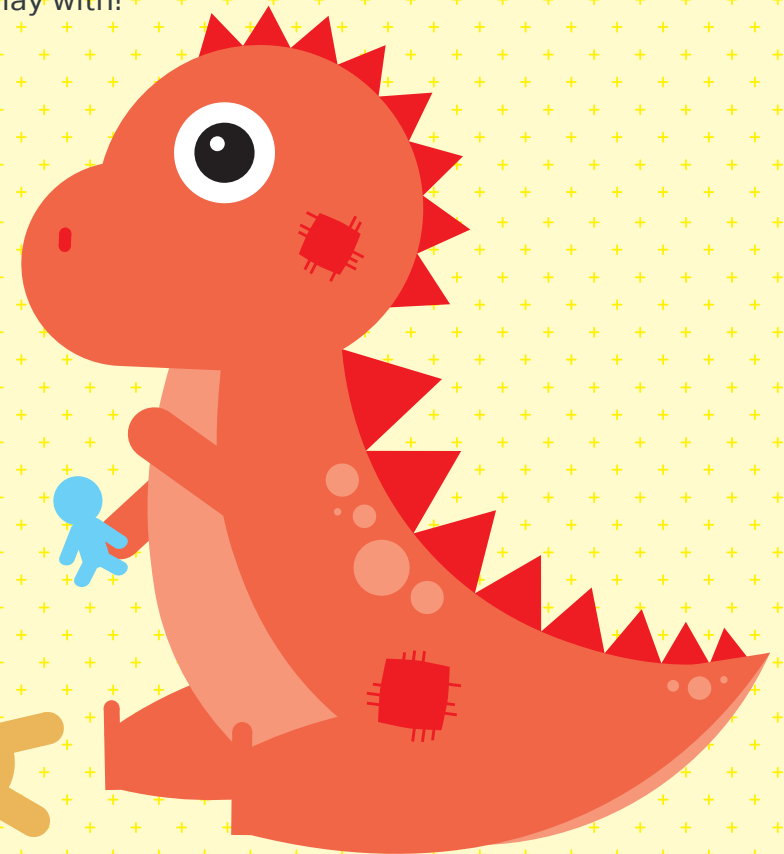
LONDON CURRICULUM • FAMILY EXPLORER TRAIL

EQUAL PLAY

Explore the V&A Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green
to discover toys that all children love to play with!

V&A Museum
of Childhood

#EqualPlay



What is the London Curriculum?

The London Curriculum is a fun way of teaching young people about the city using London as a classroom. Schools are already enjoying our free learning resources, and now with our family trails parents and carers can join in too.

This trail is the first we've designed for younger children (aged 5-9) and their families. To find out more about our Family Explorer and World of Work trails visit:

www.london.gov.uk/familytrails

www.london.gov.uk/world-of-work

What is Equal Play?

As part of the Mayor's commitment to gender equality, he wants to ensure opportunities for both boys and girls to excel in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills. Only 14% of the UK's STEM workforce are women, even though girls generally do better than boys in STEM subjects at school¹ – a shocking waste of talent!

Evidence suggests that gender stereotypes start early and can narrow children's aspirations². For example, STEM toys are three times more likely to be advertised to boys than to girls³, and girls are 12 times more often shown playing with baby dolls than boys⁴. Children are quick to pick up ideas about 'boys' toys' and 'girls' toys' but this can limit them.

This trail has been designed to enable families to engage with the topic of Equal Play using the amazing collections at the V&A Museum of Childhood. We hope it will help open up new opportunities for children.

How to use this Family Explorer Trail

We suggest starting your trail on the Mezzanine level of the Ground Floor.

There are **eight activity locations** to visit, marked on the gallery plans on the opposite page.

Do as many or as few of the activities as you wish!

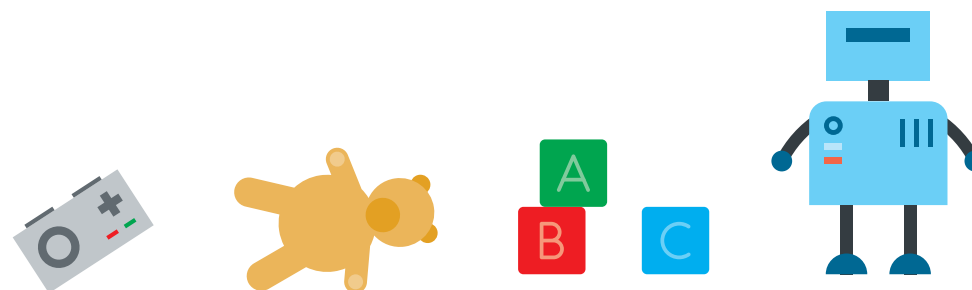
The middle four pages are designed to be pulled out by carers and parents to use with the trail. They include suggestions for further questions to get children thinking about the topic of Equal Play, at the Museum or at home.

We estimate the trail should take 1.5 to two hours to complete, but there's no time limit. Take time to explore, play and have fun!

A message from the Mayor

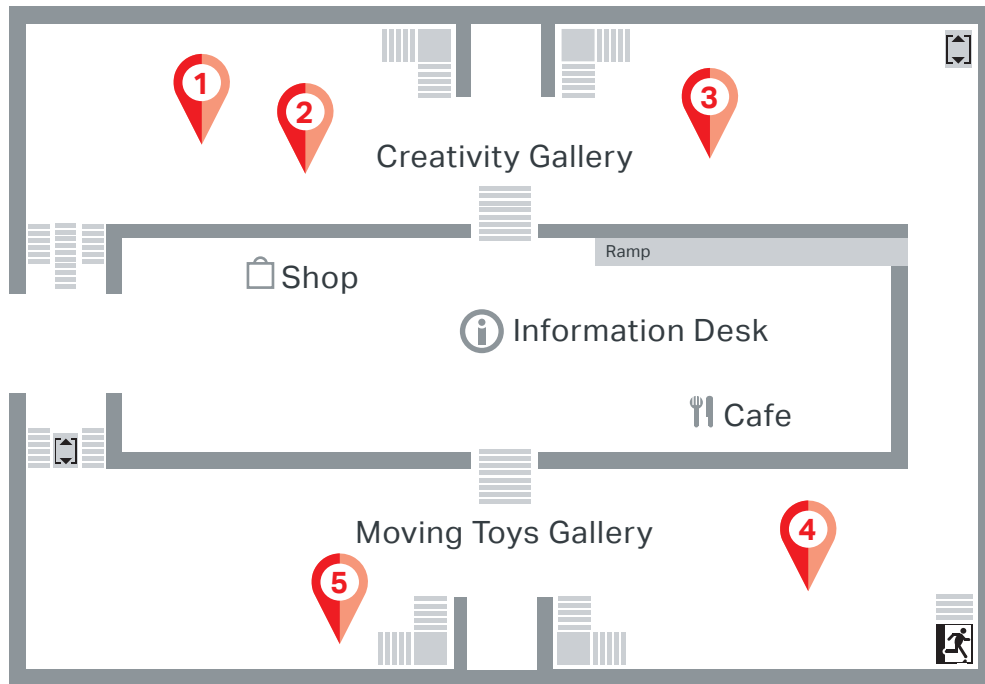
"London is a city of opportunity and young Londoners are the scientists, engineers and designers of the future. I'm delighted that we've teamed up with the V&A Museum of Childhood to support families and children to explore ideas and creativity through play, and not be held back by gender stereotypes."

– Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

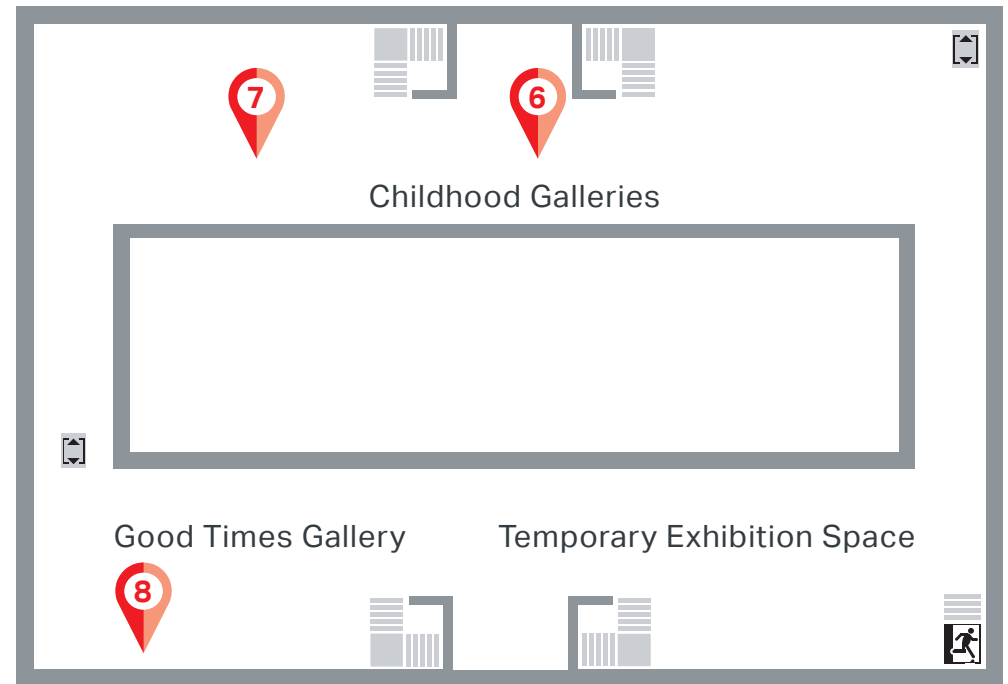


Gallery plans

M Mezzanine



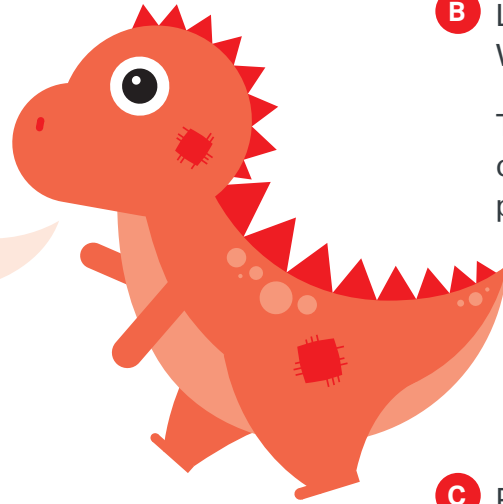
1 First Floor



1

Build it up

Hello! I'm Dinah the Dinosaur.
 I love playing with toys! Do you?
 Welcome to the V&A Museum
 of Childhood! The Museum has
 loads of toys – both old and new.
 Some of them you can play with
 too! Are you ready to follow me
 and explore? It's going to be a lot
 of fun!



- B** Look at the other toys in this case and the one next to it. Which ones could you use to build something?

Toys like these help you learn lots of different skills! Put a cross **X** beside the **one** skill below that you **don't** learn by playing with these toys.

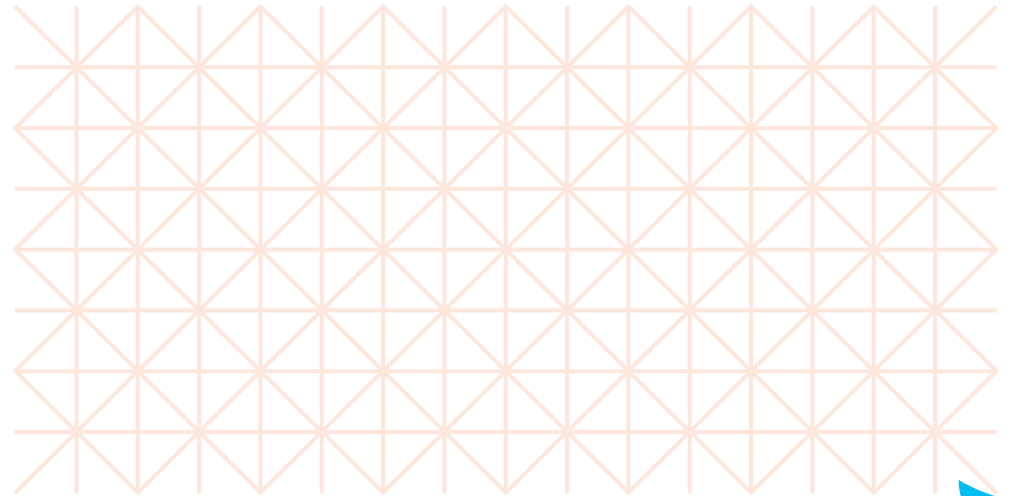
to solve problems

hand-eye coordination


not to give up

to read

- C** Pretend that the little boxes below are building bricks. Colour them in to build something. It might be a house, a bridge, a ship or a tower. You can build whatever you want!



Find the model of a famous clock called Big Ben.


 **Clue:** It is next to a table with building blocks to play with.

- A** Put a tick ✓ inside the shapes that you can see on the front of the model.



.....

If you can name any of the shapes, write them in the spaces above.

 **Look out for** the toys in a nearby case that have been made by children themselves. And have some fun playing with the building blocks too!

2 Superheroes!

Find the case with a superhero costume in. There's a **clue** 🔍 on this page to help you find it! Which superhero wears this costume?

A Tick ✓ the boxes when you find these other superheroes. You will need to look on both sides of the case!

- Wonder Woman Wolverine Invisible Woman
 Spider-Man Supergirl He-Man

Who is your favourite superhero? Why?

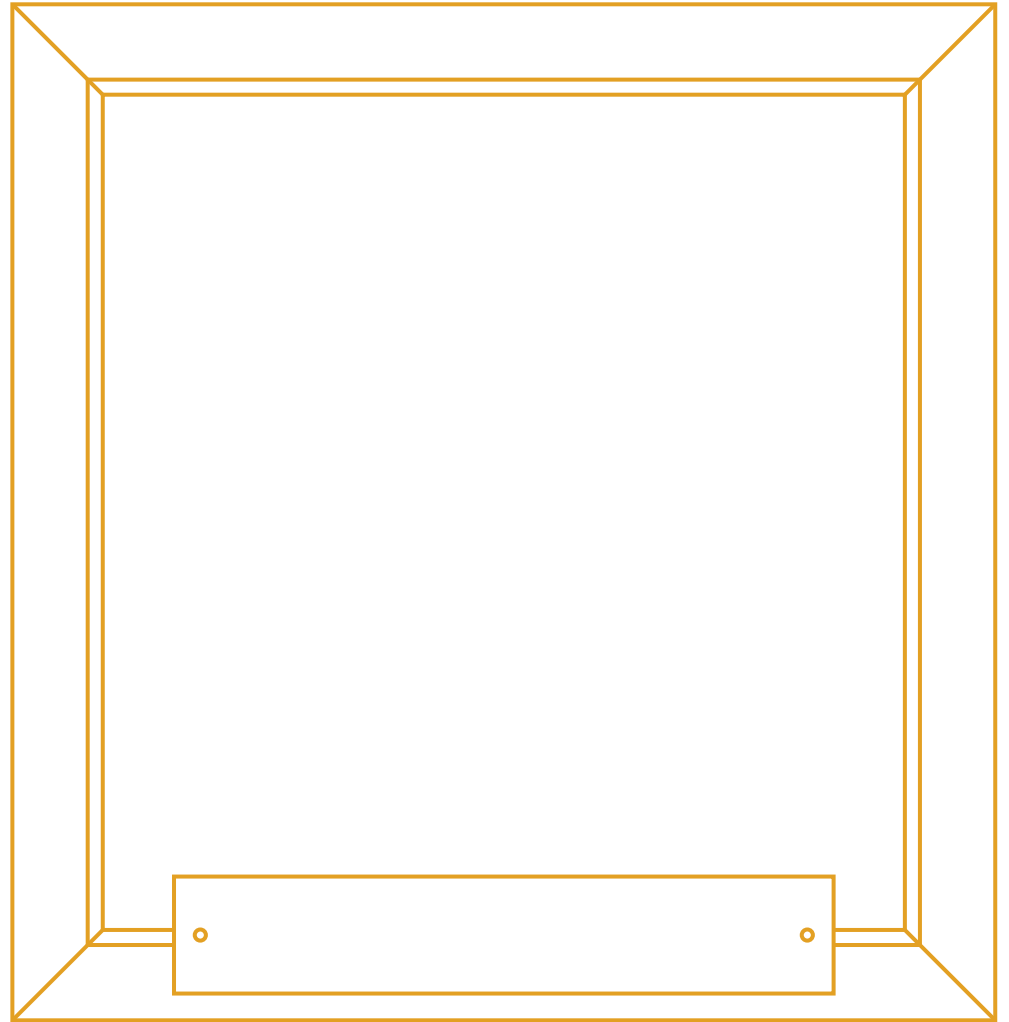
B Draw a circle around all the words that can describe superheroes.

strong brave selfish helpful active
fair honest clever unkind caring



I like dressing up as lots of different superheroes! What do you like dressing up as?

C Do you know any superheroes? Draw a picture of them here and write their name underneath.



👁️ **Look out for** the model of the space rocket, Saturn V. Would you like to be an astronaut and be launched into space?






Dolls for all

The Museum has lots of little human figures from all around the world! Find the brightly coloured 'Childhood Cube'. Can you spot any in here?

A What colours can you see in the cube? Write the names of as many of the colours as you can in the box below. Circle your favourite.

B Choose any case with lots of dolls in. Let's do some Maths!

- How many dolls are in the case?
- If the Museum took away half the dolls in the case, how many would be left?
- If the Museum put twice as many dolls in the case, how many would there be?

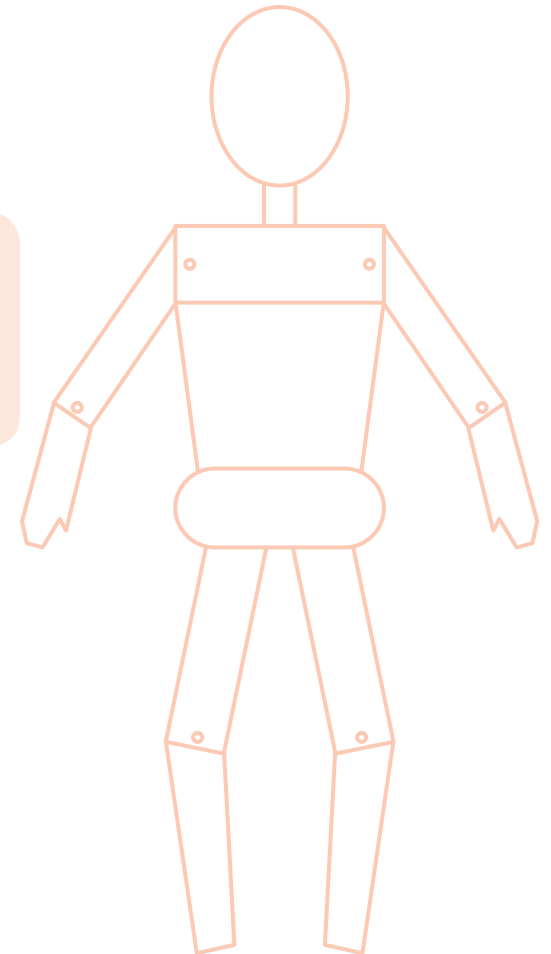
 **Look out for** the village made of dolls' houses! Can you make up any stories about what happens here when the Museum is closed?

C Which doll is your favourite? Is it old or new?

Draw a circle around the material, or materials, it is made out of:

- wood
- china
- wax
- paper
- plastic
- fabric
- metal
- rubber

D Now draw some clothes, shoes, a face and some hair on this doll.



My brother and I take our dolls on adventures! What's your favourite game with your dolls?



Equal Play: Adult guide

These four pages are designed to be pulled out and used as a guide by carers and parents!

How to use this guide

The guide is linked to all the activities in the trail. For each activity, there are suggested questions that you could ask to help children think about toys and play.

The green boxes have questions you can ask all children. Explore their answers but be cautious of obviously disapproving 'stereotypical' ones. There are no 'wrong' answers. Equal Play is about all children being able to play with all toys – whether they're 'stereotypical' or not!

The blue boxes have extension questions and activities for older children. These might help children to challenge gender stereotypes, and understand how advertising and packaging influence their choices.

Why ask these questions?

Have you ever seen a shop aisle full of blue construction sets and science labs 'for boys' and pink-themed baby dolls and craft sets 'for girls'? This can limit children's choices – including what they believe they can do and be when they're older.

We want children to know that they can do anything! Adults can help challenge these gender stereotypes so that every child can reach their full potential.



Build it up: Creativity Gallery

This first activity is designed to introduce children to the theme of the trail: that all toys are for everyone!

Do children think everyone can play with all these toys?

Explore the sorts of games that could be played with different toys. What toys would children like and why? Try to question views such as, 'That toy is for boys,' by asking, 'Why can't a girl play with it?' You could offer examples from your own experience such as, 'Mummy / my sister used to play with that'.

Can children find packaging that they think is designed to appeal mainly to boys or mainly to girls? How could this limit opportunities for girls and boys as they grow up?

For example, it could limit their understanding of certain topics, their development of certain skills, and even what jobs they could have!

How do they think the toys should be packaged to show that they're for everyone? Can they find any examples of this?



Many top-paid jobs increasingly need skills in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects¹.



Superheroes: Creativity Gallery

Encourage the idea that all children can dress up as whoever or whatever they want!

Ask children who could wear the costume. If they say 'a boy' ask them why they think that.

Encourage the idea that caring for people is heroic!

Ask children to think about people they know who have the same qualities as a superhero. This might be their primary carer at home, their teacher or a family friend who works in a caring profession.

i Research shows that questioning stereotypes can help both boys' and girls' educational achievement⁵.

Encourage the idea that both men and women can be superheroes!

Ask children why they think there are more male superhero toys than female ones. Do they think the female superhero toys look as strong or exciting as the male ones?

Instead of children drawing a picture of someone they know, they could create their own action hero. Can they challenge stereotypes with this, for example by creating a strong female action hero?



Dolls for all: Creativity Gallery

Encourage the idea that all colours are for everyone and we don't all have to like the same one!

Ask children why the colour they have chosen is their favourite.

Encourage the idea that all the human figures are dolls and that anyone can play with all of them!

Try to question stereotypical views such as, 'Only girls play with dolls.'

Encourage the idea that it's okay to like any colour, so long as it's your own choice!

Do girls have to like pink things and do boys have to like blue?

Encourage the idea that caring for a doll is like looking after a pet or caring for a baby – and dads as well as mums do that!

Ask children if they think a boy who wanted to play with a baby doll or a girl who plays with cars would be laughed at by their friends. Is that right?

i 9 in 10 men believe that it is equally acceptable for women and men to take time out of work to care for their family⁶.



Push me pull me: Moving Toys Gallery

Encourage the idea that all children enjoy playing with vehicles and all adults push prams and buggies!

Ask children who they think would play with the different toys. Respond to views such as, 'A girl/boy wouldn't like playing with this one,' by offering examples from your own experience.

i Toy catalogues 2017: Boys were four times more likely to be shown playing with vehicles than girls⁴.

Ask children to find out the year the pram was made. How old is it? What colour do they think many modern toy prams and buggies are? How have the designs changed? See if they can spot one later in a case in the Museum!



All aboard: Moving Toys Gallery

Encourage the idea that everyone can grow up to be an engineer and build the cities of the future!

Talk about the last time children travelled by train or bus. Can both women and men be train and bus drivers? What about the workers that build railways, roads, tunnels and bridges?

Show children Roma Agrawal on the back cover of their booklet. She designed the top of the Shard – the tallest building in the UK! Also, it was mainly women that built Waterloo Bridge – and that was over 70 years ago!

Encourage children to think about the impact of packaging!

Ask children to find examples of old packaging or photos that show both boys and girls playing with vehicles.

Do they think modern packaging aims toy cars and trains more at boys or more at girls? Is this right?



Keeping house: Childhood Galleries

i A 2017 study found that boys receive £2.20 more pocket money a week than girls, suggesting the gender pay gap starts early and in the home⁷.

Encourage the idea that all adults need to know how to push a pram and to care for a baby!


Have children spotted the modern toy buggy in a case nearby? Were they correct about the colour? How might this limit who plays with it?




What will you be: Childhood Galleries


Encourage the idea that caring for others is heroic. Everyone can grow up to be a hero who saves people's lives!

Ask children if both men and women can do all the jobs in a hospital? Question any stereotypes and, if possible, remind children of their own experiences, 'But the nurse we saw when you cut your hand was a man.'

You could look back at  Superheroes to help children think about the skills and qualities needed to be a nurse.

 Research suggests that children's aspirations are already shaped by their gender from as early as 7 years old⁸.

Prompt children to think of skills and qualities that might not always be associated with caring professions. Try to give examples from their own experiences, 'Your teacher has to make lots of important decisions,' or, 'Your head teacher is a good leader.'

 When asked to draw a scientist, 58% of girls draw them as men whilst only 4% of boys draw them as women⁹.



What will you be: Childhood Galleries

Encourage the idea that there are lots of different toys to enjoy - and we can all play with any of them!

Ask children about the toys they've seen today and their favourites.

Encourage the idea that your choices don't have to be limited. We can all play with anything and do anything!

Ask children if they've been surprised by anything they've seen or found out today. For example, did they realise that toys in the past weren't as divided into boys and girls categories by colour and packaging? This meant both boys and girls could more easily play with all toys! What do they think about this?

References:

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4 Push me pull me

Find **three** big cases with toys that use pushes or pulls to make them move.



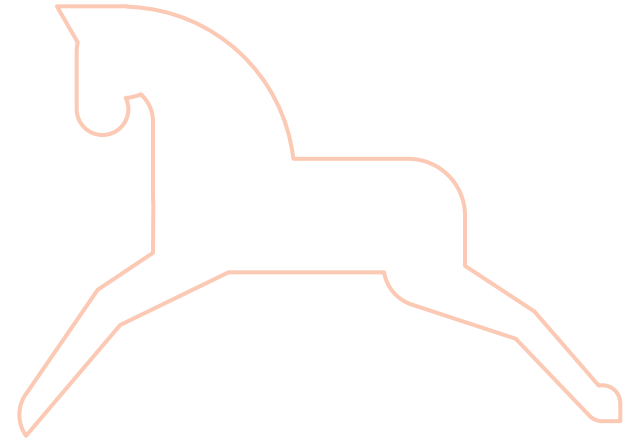
Clue: They are near the rocking horses you can ride on. Perhaps you'd like to play with them before looking in the cases!

A Choose **four** toys in the cases that you'd like to play with. Write their names in the chart below.

Colour the 🏠 if you'd play with the toy indoors. Colour the 🌲 if you'd play with it outdoors. Colour both if you'd play with it indoors and outdoors!

Name of toy	Where I'd play with it
	🏠 🌲
	🏠 🌲
	🏠 🌲
	🏠 🌲

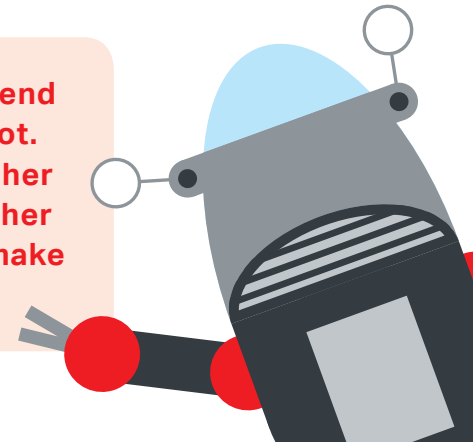
B Now complete this drawing of a rocking horse. Don't forget its rockers, saddle, mane and tail!



C Did you include the pram in the list of toys you'd like to play with? As you go around the museum, count how many adults you see pushing prams or buggies. Put a tick ✓ in the space below every time you see one. When you have finished the trail, count up the ticks and write the total number in the box.



This is my friend Rubi the Robot. Can you find her very big brother Robbie and make him move?





All aboard!

Find the case with a big model train set. Wait to see what happens when someone puts a coin in the slot!

A What makes the trains move? Tick ✓ the correct box.

- magnets
- sunlight
- electricity
- magic

B Would you make a good train spotter? Tick ✓ the boxes when you spot:

- a tunnel
- a bridge
- a level crossing
- a telephone box
- a street light
- a fish and chip shop



Have you ever played 'I spy'? I spy with my little eye something beginning with t_s_. Do you give up? It's a train station! What can you and your family spy in the model?

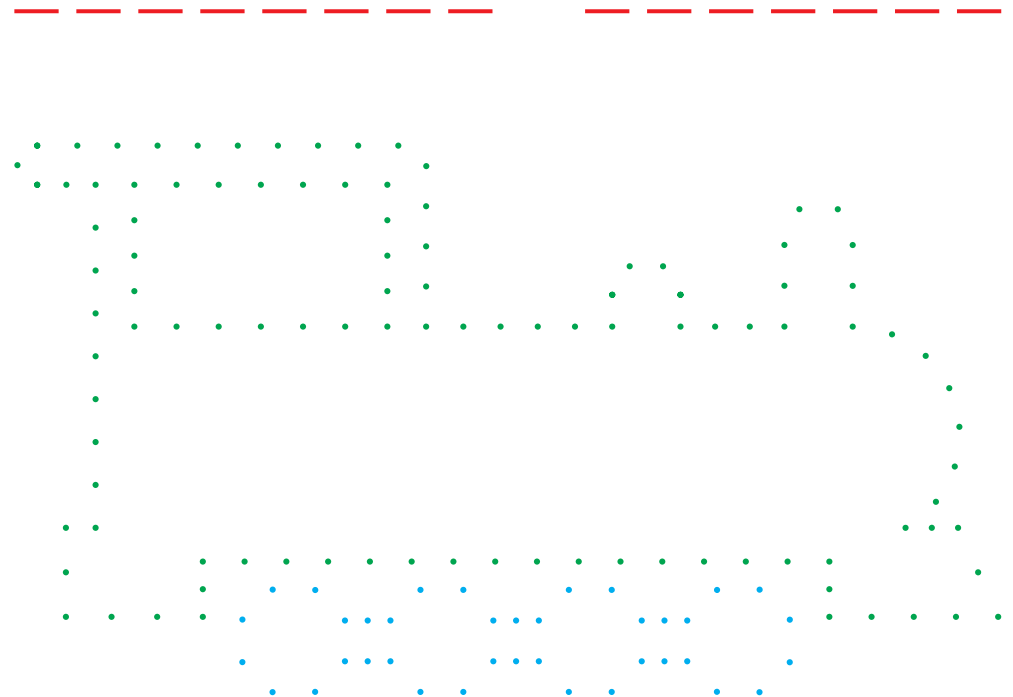
C Let's do some Maths!

There are 16 passengers on the green train. If 5 more people get on at the station, how many passengers are on the train now?

There are 17 passengers on the red train. If 10 people get off at the station, how many passengers are on the train now?

Make up some more sums like this to test each other!

D Now find the train in a case nearby that Harry Potter and his friends travel to school in. Write the name of it in the spaces below, then join the dots to complete the picture!



6 Keeping house

Find the dolls' house called **Devonshire Villas**. This picture shows part of the kitchen.



Image © V&A Museum, London.

A But **five** things are missing! Can you spot which ones they are? There are some **clues** **Q** in the picture to help you! When you've found them, draw them back in the picture.

B Imagine that you are small enough to go inside the house. You have a lot of work to do here! Draw a line to connect the correct tasks to the objects and rooms.

Light the	bed in the bedroom
Sweep the	table in the dining room
Lay the	carpet in the nursery
Wash up the	clock in the hall
Wind up the	bath in the bathroom
Clean the	fire in the sitting room
Make the	pots in the kitchen

C Let's do some Maths!

Some objects in dolls' houses are scale models. A popular scale for dolls' houses is 1:12. This means that if a cup in a dolls' house is 1cm tall, a real one will be 12cm!

Can you estimate the height of some of the other objects in the dolls' house? What height would the real objects be?

I love helping in the kitchen and making biscuits with my baking set! Why don't you go and play with the dolls' houses or the toy kitchen now ?





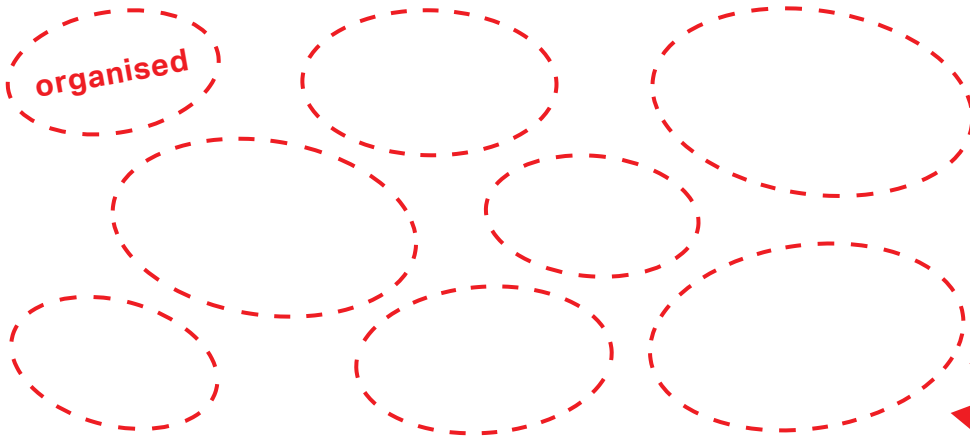
What will you be?

Find the toy hospital.



Clue: It is on a bottom shelf, between a petrol station and a garage.

- A** What job could you pretend to have playing with this toy?
- B** What type of person would you need to be to work as a nurse in a hospital? One suggestion has been completed for you below. Write some more in the oval shapes.

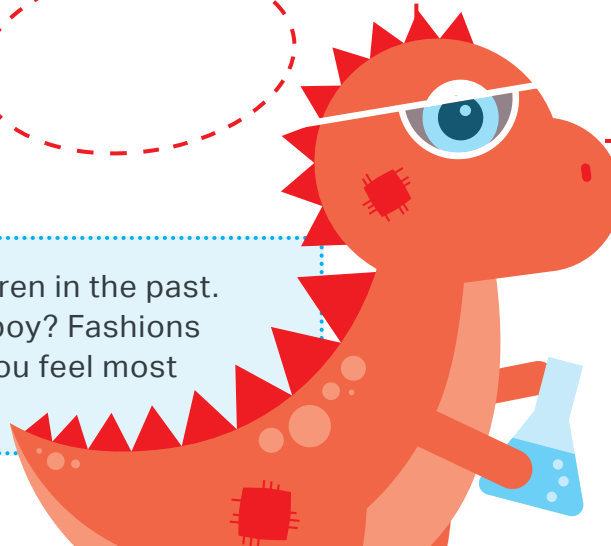


- C** Look in this case and the one next to it. Find the toys that you could play with if you were pretending to have each of the jobs below. Draw one toy in each box.

Engineer	Builder
Gardener	Fire fighter



Look out for the clothes worn by children in the past. Can you spot the red dress worn by a boy? Fashions change all the time! What clothes do you feel most comfortable and happy in?



I like playing with my chemistry set and pretending to be a scientist!
What do you like pretending to be?

8 Bear hunt

Find the case with famous teddy bears having a picnic. You might like to play in the sandpit nearby before you finish the trail!

A Can you complete the names of the famous bears in the puzzle? There are some clues about their 'likes' to help you below!

1.	S								
2.	L								
3.	P								
4.	F								
5.	P								
6.	R								

Clues 🔍

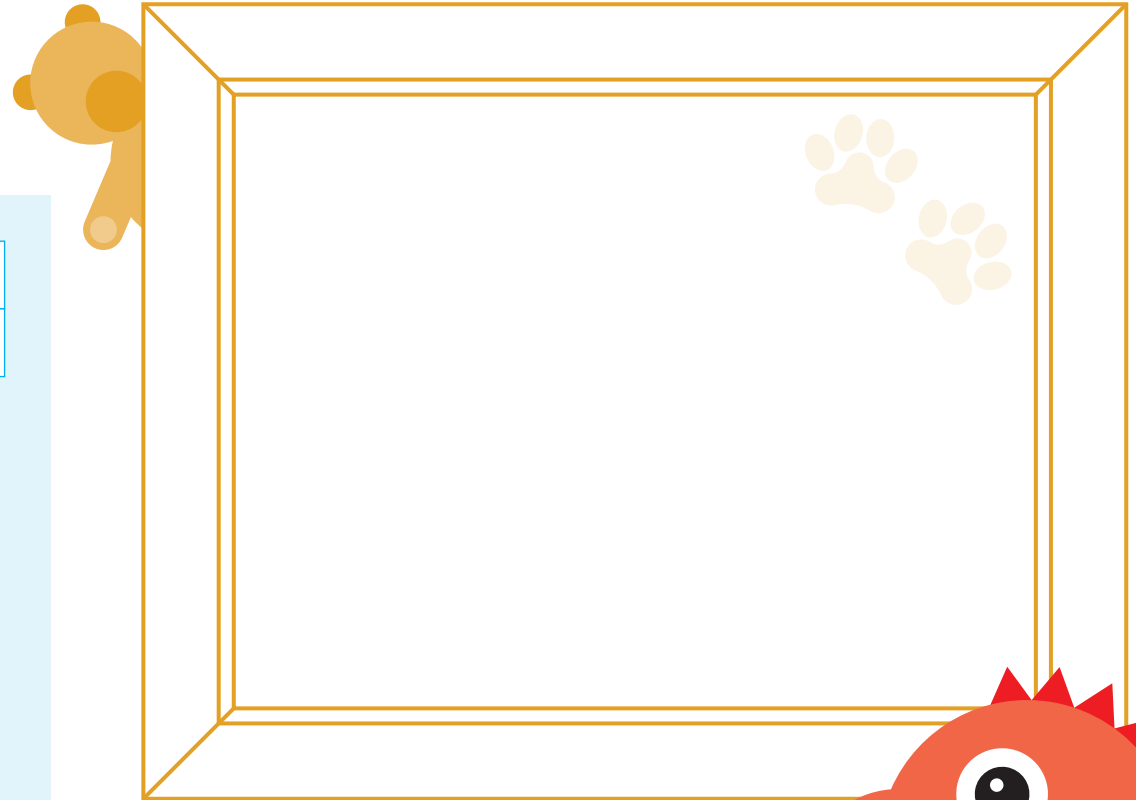
1. magic spells | 2. being mean | 3. honey | 4. telling jokes
 5. marmalade sandwiches | 6. magical adventures

B Can you complete the name of another famous bear in the red boxes? Which bear is still missing?

Write his name here:

C Look at the other case with bears in. Are any of these similar to bears that you have at home?

D Draw a picture in the frame of your favourite bear in the Museum.



Which toy in the Museum do you like best? I can't decide on my favourite. There are so many different toys to play with and enjoy!



Roma Agrawal Structural engineer

'Growing up I played with dolls, cranes, stuffed animals, building blocks and more.

I wasn't restricted to particular types of toys because of my gender and I wasn't restricted to a career because of my gender.

I'm a structural engineer now and believe my varied and supported childhood had a huge role to play in my choice of work.'

Tell us what you think!

We'd love your feedback to help us plan more family trails in the future. Please take our short survey at:

www.london.gov.uk/familytrails

Useful websites

For more tips and ideas to help challenge gender stereotypes visit: www.lettoysbetoys.org.uk

To find out more about supporting girls and women to change the world visit: www.fawcettsociety.org.uk

For fun science experiments to do at home with children visit: www.rigb.org/families/experimental



Collect the sticker!

When you have completed the trail bring it along to the Information Desk on the Ground Floor to collect your Dinah the Dinosaur sticker.

Stick Dinah the
Dinosaur here!

