



KIDS IN CHARGE! STORY IDEAS

KIDS IN CHARGE! ADVISORY BOARD

As initial plans for the new Kids In Charge! Children's Science Center were developed, museum management saw an opportunity to gather the viewpoint of its visitors, children, and an advisory board with children between the ages of 10 and 17 was established.

The KIC Advisory Board is a hands-on board responsible for providing guidance and planning for the new 40,000 square foot children's science center. The board will be involved in such things as conducting audience research on different exhibits; planning and hosting special events; becoming ambassadors for KIC to present information to the community; providing feedback and ideas on space, exhibit and architectural design, programming, and fundraising.

"Being on the Kids In Charge Advisory Board has helped me to gain experience in working with others, especially others of different age groups. This Advisory Board is important because it's real kids giving insight on what real kids want to see in museums. It's helping kids show that science isn't just about a classroom and textbooks; it's about hands-on fun". Sarah Miller, 9th Grade

For more information about the Kids In Charge! Advisory Board, please see attached Kids In Charge Advisory Board Information Kids In Charge Advisory Board Quotes.

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND KIDS IN CHARGE! AND THE VALUE OF PLAY

Philosophy: Why is Kids In Charge! important?

When the planning began for a new children's science center at MOSI, the development team asked itself, "What's so important about a children's science center?" The team consulted published resources, interviewed experts in informal learning, and talked to Florida parents, teachers and kids about their needs. A trend became clear: the opportunity for intergenerational play is a critical component of learning and developing as an imaginative, well-adjusted, social person.

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Just as in the processes that underlie scientific discovery, play means trying things this way and that, and then trying them again. It means being open, changing perspective, trying the intuitive as well as the logical—thinking outside the box. Play is peppered with humor, motion, questions, ideas and theories to be tried. It inspires unexpected discoveries. Play generates a positive emotional context for learning, and it produces surprises by returning adults to childlike feelings, curiosities and intuitions from which truly creative thinking stems. The education of the imagination that occurs through play provides the base upon which learning in traditional educational settings is built. Play supercharges learning, teaches us how to manage and transform our emotions and experiences, and serves as a foundation for good mental and physical health.

Kids In Charge! will affirm the value of play in science learning. The lively spaces, atmosphere, and nature of the exhibits and activities within **Kids In Charge!** will stimulate curiosity and motivate learning, helping young people build skills and relationships with science and the world at large. The hands-on, minds-on nature of the experience will make **Kids In Charge!** an outstanding resource that cultivates curiosity, confidence and dialogue. **Kids In Charge!** is MOSI's, and our community's, statement about the value we place in our children and an affirmation of our shared future.

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