



## Top tips for a gallery visit

Museums and galleries are full of amazing objects and stories, so what better way for families to connect with these than being immersed in them within your galleries, rather than in a learning space.

There are many different types of activities that we have found work well within a gallery setting including craft, music and movement, sensory play, storytelling and independent exploration.

**Below are our top tips for a gallery-based session:**

- Spend some time in the gallery as part of the planning. See what catches your eye or inspires you and use this, but be mindful that a child's height means a slightly different perspective. See what children and families are drawn to as well
- Make your link to the gallery/collection clear to families – tell them why the session is in the gallery
- Provide resources for child-led exploration such as magnifiers, torches, mirrors etc
- Give children/families enough time to explore independently
- Ensure parents/carers/practitioners are aware of the location of the gallery you will be visiting – could you include this in booking information?
- Put up clear signage and ensure front of house staff know whether to direct families/groups for the session
- If you are guiding a group to a gallery, sing a familiar song as you go to keep the group together

# Early Years toolkit

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- Consider the practicalities of the space - will you will need to barrier off part of the gallery for the session? Will this have an impact on the public, other groups and other museum departments?
- Ensure other relevant museum departments are aware of which spaces you will be using to avoid clashes
- Ensure the gallery is accessible for buggies and prams or if not, provide an appropriate buggy parking area and make sure parents and carers aware of it
- Use songs, stories, actions, images, props and objects to explore the themes of the gallery.

