



**Bucks County Children's Museum**  
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### **Bucks County Children's Museum Creates New Resources for Children with Autism**

**New Hope, Pa [July 17, 2013]** - The Bucks County Children's Museum is launching "Enhancing Exploration for Everyone", a new initiative focused on providing an inclusive community where every child can play and learn. This initiative includes the development of a museum support guide and visual schedule geared to assist children visiting the museum who function within the spectrum of autism.

The program was developed by Danielle Morabito, an intern participating in the Foundations Community Partnership Summer Youth Corps Program. Ms Morabito, a junior studying education at Messiah College, has dedicated her summer to creating these new resources for parents and educators to use with autistic children who visit the museum.

The new museum support guide, which is written in storybook format, includes pictures and descriptions of each area and exhibit at the museum and can be viewed on the museum website. In addition to the guide, visual schedules are available at the check in desk for children to use during their visit. These Velcro schedules contain icons that correspond to the ones that are found in the guide and on display at the exhibits. "Both these tools assist autistic learners in making easy transitions between exhibits, and decrease the anxiety which often occurs when faced with new experiences" says Morabito.

On Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, the museum opened its doors for a private event for children with autistic spectrum disorders to gather feedback on these new resources. "Explore Day" was warmly received by members of the community and the museum plans to hold more of these events in the future.

The Bucks County Children's Museum hopes these new resources will help children, parents, and educators feel comfortable coming to the museum, in an effort to reach more children in the community, by providing the opportunity for every child to have a safe place to learn and play!

The Bucks Country Children's Museum is a 5,000 square foot facility located at 500 Union Square, New Hope, PA. Opened to the public November 1st, 2011, the Museum's mission is to offer uniquely educational, fun and interactive experiences for young learners and their families. Daily admission is \$7.00 per person and annual memberships are available. For more information about the Bucks County Children's Museum visit [www.buckskids.org](http://www.buckskids.org).

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