

# Learn & Play Tampa Bay

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Children's  
Museum

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## **Glazer Children's Museum and Children's Board of Hillsborough County Introduce Learn & Play Tampa Bay**

*The Museum is going mobile with a free, fully bilingual outreach program designed to boost kindergarten readiness skills!*

TAMPA, FL (January 14, 2019) - This January, Glazer Children's Museum is going outside its walls to launch the new outreach program, Learn & Play Tampa Bay. Thanks to funding provided by Children's Board of Hillsborough County, the program will provide free play sessions for infants and toddlers not currently enrolled in any early learning programs. The free 90-minute educator-led sessions are designed for children ages 0-5, along with their caregivers, to engage in an interactive play-based curriculum focused on essential skill development to prepare them for Kindergarten. All program materials and educators will be bilingual in English and Spanish to better serve our diverse families in Hillsborough County.

The need for a program like this is quite clear. "In some areas of Hillsborough County, Kindergarten Readiness scores are below 20% due to lack of affordable access to quality early learning opportunities," explains the Director of the program, Sara Arias-Steele, "By bringing a free school readiness program out of the museum and into the community, we hope to ensure all children have the best possible start to thrive in school. "

### **ABOUT LEARN & PLAY TAMPA BAY:**

**Launching Soon:** The program will begin in January, with additional locations launching over the first six months. The program plans to expand to 10 sites by October 2020.

- 1) **January 28-August 2** Cyrus Greene Community Center and Seffner-Mango Branch Library
- 2) **April 1-August 2** West Tampa Branch Library and Thonotosassa Branch Library
- 3) **June 1-August 2** Iglesia Bautista La Fe in Plant City

**Inspiration:** Inspired by *Play To Learn*, a Kindergarten readiness model created by Children's Museum of Tacoma, Learn & Play Tampa Bay will be utilizing this promising practice model to promote quality early learning experiences and school readiness through playful caregiver and child activities.

**Partners:** The program will work in collaboration with Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation, Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative, and local site partners.

## LEARN MORE

LearnPlayTampaBay.org | 833 GCM PLAY (833 426 7529)

## CONTACT

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## ABOUT GLAZER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The mission of the Glazer Children's Museum is to create a learning laboratory where children play, discover, and connect with the world around them to develop as lifelong learners and leaders. While learning is often formal and playing is for fun, the Glazer Children's Museum encourages children to play with purpose in an interactive learning environment. The Museum is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, serving as an innovative educational, cultural, and accessible resource for Tampa Bay and Central Florida. More than 210,000 guests explore GCM's 19 themed areas and 170 exhibits annually, and another 60,000 people are impacted through the Museum's outreach in the community. Conveniently located in downtown Tampa, GCM is an integral part of the cultural corridor of museums, libraries, theaters, and performing arts centers. The 53,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility offers 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of event space, 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup> of classroom space, and a 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> rooftop terrace overlooking the picturesque Riverwalk along the Hillsborough River and Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park.

**ABOUT CHILDREN'S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** The Children's Board invests in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in Hillsborough County. Created by voters in 1988 we provide funding for services and support on behalf of children and families with an emphasis on children from birth to age eight. In fiscal year 2018, we invested nearly \$40 million in more than 90 local non-profit agencies. Our funded partners have clearly defined goals and outcomes that are regularly monitored for quality and performance. The strategic focus of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County is to work with organizations who share a common vision of offering support to children so that they can lead a healthy, safe, and productive life. This in turn, makes a difference for all of the residents of Hillsborough County.

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