Museum offers hands-on fun for kids

BY DIANS HANSON hisractal Warra.

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I dinderstand." That old Chinase prover is besic to the philosophy on which his Anderson the hisractand. That old Chinase proven which his Anderson the hisractand. On Mand there is plenty to do at the museum in the old first station on East Huron Ave. The firshouse, built in 1882, is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Cynthis 'Yoo, director of the museum, wrote the proposal for the hands-on facility 16 years ago.

"Interactive science was just sort of an idea in people's heads," recounted associate director Lesile Kimmell. "She (Yoo) was very, very wexited about it and conveyed that excitement to the rest of the community, and the response that we got was just incredible. The whole community on the response that we got was just incredible. The whole community just pitched in and made this work."

House Beautiful will present A Lasting Vision: The Legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright," a nation-wide exhibit to celebrate the work

wide exhibit to celebrate the work of America's revered architect, Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 at Meadow Brook Hall. For information, call (810) 370-3140. Meadow Brook Hall is on the Oakland University campus

Exhibit celebrates architect

cineting exhibits and is undergoing even more expansion with the
recent purchase of adjacent buildings on East Huron. A preschool
gallery and a multi-cultural galicry have already been added.
There is also space for traveling
exhibitions. Currently, that space
is cleared for the museum's annual fund-raising auction, but new
exhibits should be coming in
again in November.
Tiffany Mapes of Dearborn was
at the museum on a bright Saturday afternoon with her husband,
Daniel and sons, Ryan, 11, and
Adam, 6.

Daniel and sons, Ryan, II, and Adam, 6.
They have a family membership, and Tiffany confessed, "We come here often because there's so much for them to do. This is fairly inexpensive, it's safe. They can touch everything. They can play with it. They're not going to break anything. You can be here for hours. We usually stay about three hours."
According to Kimmel, "This museum probably never has an

Visiting: Lindsey Schwartz of West Bloomfield surrounds her• self in a gi-ant bubble at the Ann Arbor Hands-

on Museum.



ashibit down. You can imagine how sturdy the exhibits have to be to take all these thousands and thousands of hands that are pushing and pulling buttons."

What a marvelous way for kids to experience first hand so many scientific principles. And adults need not be a science whis to explain the workings since each exhibit has a sign posted nearby with the facts in layman's terms.

With more than 76 exhibits, everyone has a favorite. Ryan Mapes liked everything, but one particular favorite was the echo carphones. Adam Mapes favorite was, "the globe thing." Better known as the Star Sculpture, it's a gleas globe with constantly fluctuating electrical currents, kind of like a continuous lightning storm. From the giggles of delight, it was obvious that four-year-old Lindsey Schwarts loved being enveloped in the glant bubble of song film, she may be able to demonstrate the current of the principles of surface tension and light refraction that experience in years to come.

Lindsey and sister, Blair 7. had

Lindsey and sister, Blair 7, had come with their grandmother, Lola Howard of West Bloomfield. This was their first trip to the museum.

"Their parents are out of town, and we wanted to find a hands-on type place, and we were very pleased," said Howard. "It's very cleverly done. Children are not afraid to touch."

arraid to touch.

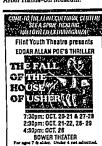
The shadow wall is another intriguing exhibit that attracts kids and adults alike. A bright flash of light leaves of tul-sized silhouette on the white wall for several minutes. Oddly contorted body positions result in hearty laughter at the images left behind. Peter Pan would certainly have no trouble finding his shadow there.

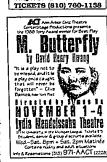
From the hot air balloon that rises on eir heated by double toasters to the holographic images to the preschool gallery to the per-iscope peering onto the floor



Portralt: Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin, Spring Green, Wis., 1937 Hedrich-Blessing photograph.

above to the geometric patterns created in the white sand by vi-brations, there is something for svery one and every age. If you're looking for quality family time and a fun learning experience, you







How to get there

The Ann Arber Hands-On Museum Where: In the old firehouse at 210 East Huron Street, Ann Arber (corner of North Fifth Avenue) Hours: 10 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. Of Street, Proceedings of the Visit your favority of the Control of Street, Proceedings of the Control of S

Avenue)
Hours: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5
p.m. Saturdays; 1-6 p.m. Sundays.
Admission: \$2.50 for children
agea three and up, students
and senior citizens. Adults, \$4.
For more information call:

(313) 995-KIDS.
Halloween fun: For children ages 3-12, 6:30-7:30 p.m. & 7:30-9 p.m. & 7:30-9 p.m. & 6:30-9 p.m. & 6:30-9 p.m. & 7:30-9 p.m. &





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