

Young V&A

Mini Play for toddlers (Oct 2025) Programme

Details

Fridays & Mondays 3 – 20 October, 13.30-15.00

Play Studio, Learning Centre at Young V&A, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA

Overview

Mini Play is our sensory workshop series for toddlers aged 1-3 and their guardians to explore, play and get messy together. We have designed activities inspired by the museum's Play Gallery. These open-ended sessions will encourage your child to use and develop creative, physical and cognitive skills through play.

Each session will be a combination of messy play, child-led and hands on activity, and exploring museum objects. Our resources include a bespoke set of Sensory Tiles designed and made by *Play Build Play* (playbuildplay.org.uk/).

Typical workshop structure:

1. Settling down and welcome (10 minutes)
2. Free play and explorations (60 minutes)
3. Circle time (20 minutes)

Please wear clothes that you and your child don't mind getting messy.

Fridays with Jamel Carly Campbell

Celebrate Black History Month with author and storyteller Jamel Carly Campbell. Explore Afro-Caribbean sounds, patterns, and textures through joyful, hands-on play.

- **3 Oct – Music & Sound:** Shake, rattle, and roll with instruments and noise-making
- **10 Oct – Pattern & Print:** Discover textiles and mark-making
- **17 Oct – Smell & Touch:** Sensory play with spices and textures

Mondays with Abi Horn

Led by artist Abi Horn, whose practice is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, these sessions offer creative exploration of the museum's collection through playful activities.

- **6 Oct – Colour:** Mix paint and playdough, explore light and shadow
- **13 Oct – Home:** Play with everyday objects and build / play in dens
- **20 Oct – Mini Curators:** Discover museum objects and play with boxes and display boards

** Please note that there will be no public step-free access to the workshop room on Monday 13 October. You will be advised to leave your pushchair in the buggy park located on the ground floor.*

Further information:

- This workshop is for families with toddlers aged between 1-3. If your child is under 1, please book onto Mini Play for babies instead.
- Each booking is for individual sessions. On the booking page, please select all the dates you wish to attend.
- Each ticket admits one child and one accompanying adult. All children must be supervised by an adult throughout the session.
- Please double-check your selected dates before confirming your booking. Refunds are only available in exceptional circumstances.
- In the unlikely event that the V&A must cancel due to an emergency or circumstances beyond our control, we will either reschedule your session or issue a refund.
- These sessions are relaxed and designed with you and your child in mind. There will be time to let your child explore in their own time. In the 90 min session it's fine to take a short break, take your child out for a snack in the Community Room nearby or to breast feed in the workshop room.
- Please wear clothes you don't mind getting messy.
- Please use our buggy park, as we don't have a space for them in the studio and it can cause a potential fire and trip risk.
- We ask everyone to keep food items in their bags while in the workshop room in case of food allergies. Breastfeeding is allowed in the room anytime, or anywhere you feel comfortable in the museum if you prefer.

We know that visiting a museum as a family requires lots of planning. If you would like further information or would like to tell us about your child's needs in advance of the session, please contact us by email: yvalearningevent@vam.ac.uk