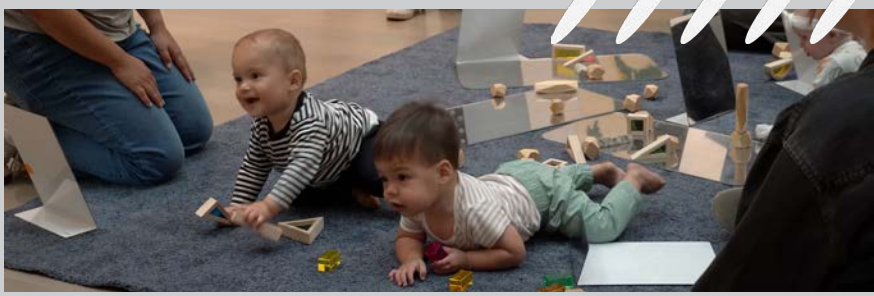
Building Blocks – Exploring Architecture

SEPTEMBER 2026

This theme invites infants to explore the Museum in its entirety as a physical space with many opportunities for learning. It also invites the adults to consider a different lens and perspective by slowing down to observe the infant's interests. At Art Crawl, we view the physical environment as a third teacher - one that provides infants opportunities to explore, wonder, and experience the galleries. We encourage adults to notice what infants are noticing - the walls, the ceilings, the artworks, the echoes, the people in the space. We see learning in all of it. Infants invite us to consider new ways of engaging in a museum space and challenge our understanding of learning in the galleries.





"The museum itself is an immersive experience for a young child. It is not always necessary to re-create a distinct activity that is experiential, if we are able to view the entire encounter with a museum or gallery environment as an embodied experience, and to welcome and value the different ways that children might have of engaging with it"
(Wallis, 2025).



In this image, we see an infant pointing at their reflection in the glass wall in the gallery. Their caregiver, crouched behind them encourages their exploration and asks, "Can you see your reflection?"

STILL

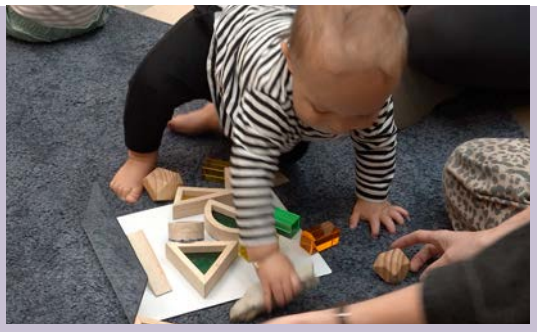


In this image, we see an infant and a caregiver looking up at the ceilings in the galleries. The caregiver engages by pointing at what they are both looking at and mirroring an excited emotional response.

As this infant and caregiver were transitioning between galleries during the program, the infant decided to crawl through a few of the galleries. In this image, we see the moment that the infant stopped and looked "under" the wall and this small space left open between the gallery walls and the floor. They looked up at their caregiver and pointed to the gap. The caregiver mirrored their interest by squatting down to look at the gap as well. The caregiver said, "Wow! Look! There is a small gap. I didn't see that before. Thanks for showing me!"





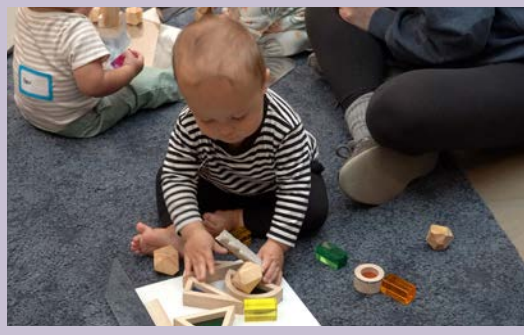




In these images, we see a child notice a cement piece of the building that was provided during this provocation. They picked it up, holding it in their hands alongside a wooden, transparent block that they were familiar with, looking between the two.







The infant then incorporates the new cement material with the blocks they had already been playing with. They laid it on top of the wooden blocks, tried to stand it upright against a translucent block, and then propped it up with a different wooden block to support it.