



9/3/2025

Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear BDCM Team,

I am writing to express my support for Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum. The Bitterroot Valley is fortunate to have a strong organization dedicated to providing an accessible space for hands-on discovery.

Young children are naturally inquisitive and learn best through play. Social and emotional development is critical to healthy development and is supported by interactive environments and peer-to-peer connections. Children's museums offer environments, materials, and experiences to foster curiosity, critical thinking, and social emotional skills such as empathy, self-awareness, and cooperation. In the absence of a permanent location, BDCM has demonstrated a creative approach through family events and pop-up events in the community. A permanent location would not only support continued efforts but would also provide a consistent space families can access on a broader, more predictable schedule.

Moreover, free, family-friendly, child-centered, indoor spaces are limited in the Bitterroot Valley. I support BDCM's efforts to find a permanent location to offer resources and space to support parent-child interactions. Positive parent-child relationships are essential to healthy brain development and form the foundation for future security, relationships, and behaviors. Ultimately, healthy parent-child relationships are a predictor of future success. BDCM's goal of providing resources throughout the museum to help adults engage with children as active partners will serve to strengthen parent-child relationships resulting in stronger children, stronger families, and a stronger community.

Bitterroot Safe Parenting Network is proud to support BDCM and its commitment to strengthening families.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Vegoren
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