



Early Years

Gallery Guide

About our Early Years Galleries

As well as lots for our youngest visitors to discover throughout the museum, we also have two galleries that are reserved...just for under 5s to explore called SoundGarden and Desert Discovery.

General EYFS Links

We've highlighted the specific Early Learning Goals from the Early Years Foundation Stage:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Making Relationships

Children play co-operatively taking turns with others. They take account of one another's ideas about how to organise an activity.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Self-Confidence and self-awareness

Children are confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others. They are confident to speak in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities. They say when they do and don't need help.

Communication and Language: Understanding

Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Mathematics: Shape, Space and Measure

Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe pattern. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

Understanding the world: People and Communities

They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

Understanding the world: The World

Children know about similarities and differences in relation to place, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.



SoundGarden (Ground Floor)

SoundGarden is an indoor magical garden bursting with opportunities for play and discovery. Orby the Alien has used her magical powers to make visitors very, very small so that they can experience the

sounds of nature in a giant-sized garden – not to mention the sights, smells and textures too! Exhibits in SoundGarden have been designed to support the Early Years Foundation Stage.



Butterfly Painting

- Make your own beautiful butterfly wing design using the touch screen technology.
- 'Paint' on the screen with your fingers.
- Mix the colours.
- Watch your butterfly fly away!

Leaf Cradle

- For babies and crawlers.
- Sit inside the leaf cradle and meet a friendly ladybird.



Puzzle Pot

- Crawl inside the huge flower pot!
- Investigate the puzzle inside – can you match the night and day pictures?

Lullaby Flowers

- Sit under the giant flowers and listen.
- Can you hear the songs? These are lullabies from all over the world.

Honeycomb

- Climb inside the giant honeycomb.
- Can you find the Queen Bee?
- Discover the sound-makers inside the honeycomb cells.
- Look into the small windows in the honeycomb – what are the bees are doing?



Tree Truck Hideaway

- Look for the gap in the old tree. What's inside?
- Come on in – can you find the animals and insects?
- Dress up as an animal, insect or whoever you'd like to be.
- Tell us a story.

Magpie's Nest

- Magpies like to collect shiny objects. What has this one found?
- What's inside the egg? Push to see the shadow and find out.



Desert Discovery (First Floor)

Desert Discovery is a special habitat inspired by the environment of the Mojave Desert in the USA, with its own quarry, campfire and oasis. It is sensory experience packed with exhibits designed to support all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Boulder Mountain

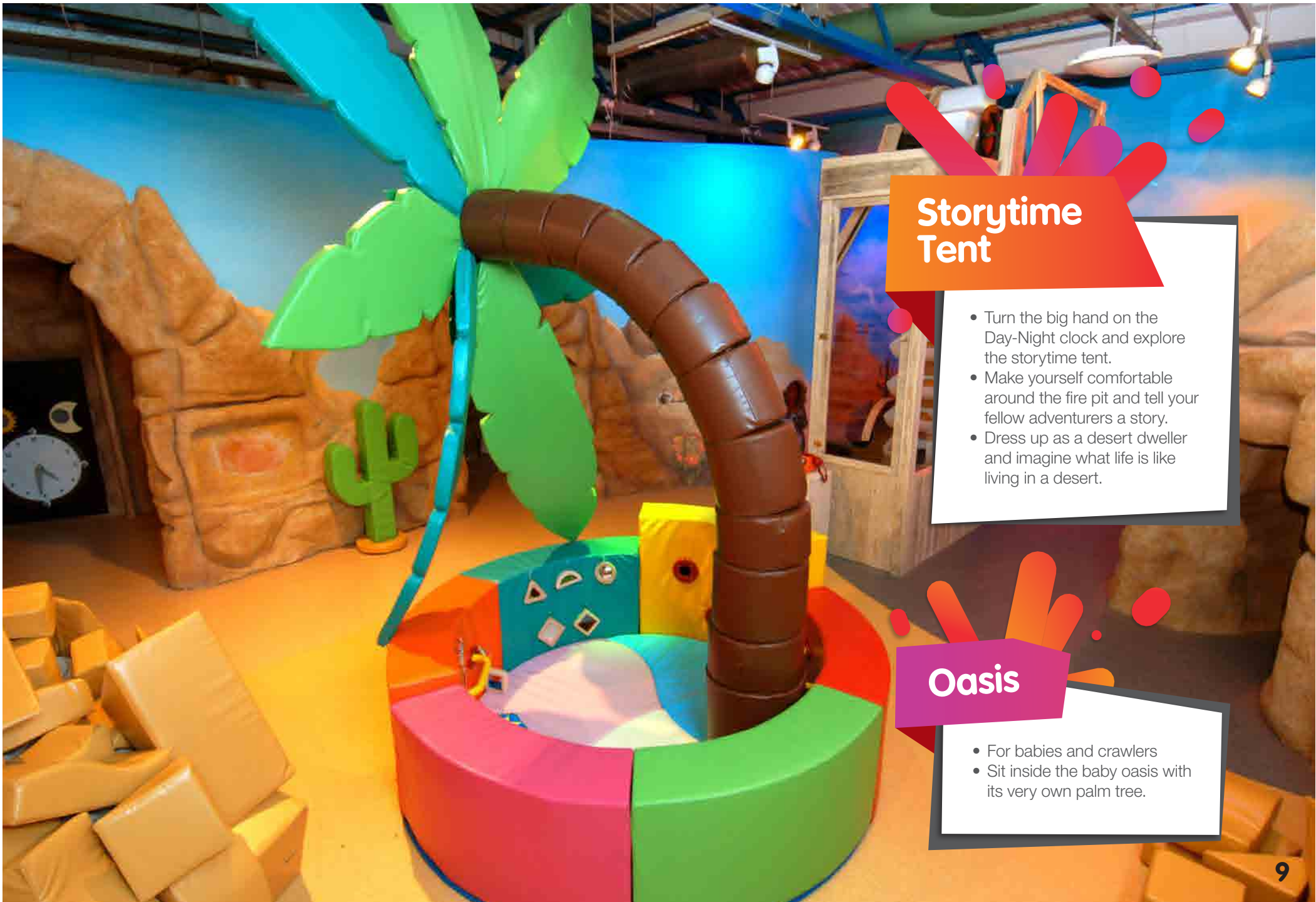
- Explore soft rocks and boulders.
- Crawl inside the cave, what can you see?
- Transport the boulders on the bucket lift – can you see how it works?
- Telephone cactus construction and let them know a bucket of boulders is on its way!

Cactus construction

- Can you find the cactus? It won't hurt you!
- Construct towers and structures with the boulders.

Construction Office

- Don't forget to pick up your hard hat and jacket!
- Can you make a picture with the magnetic squares?

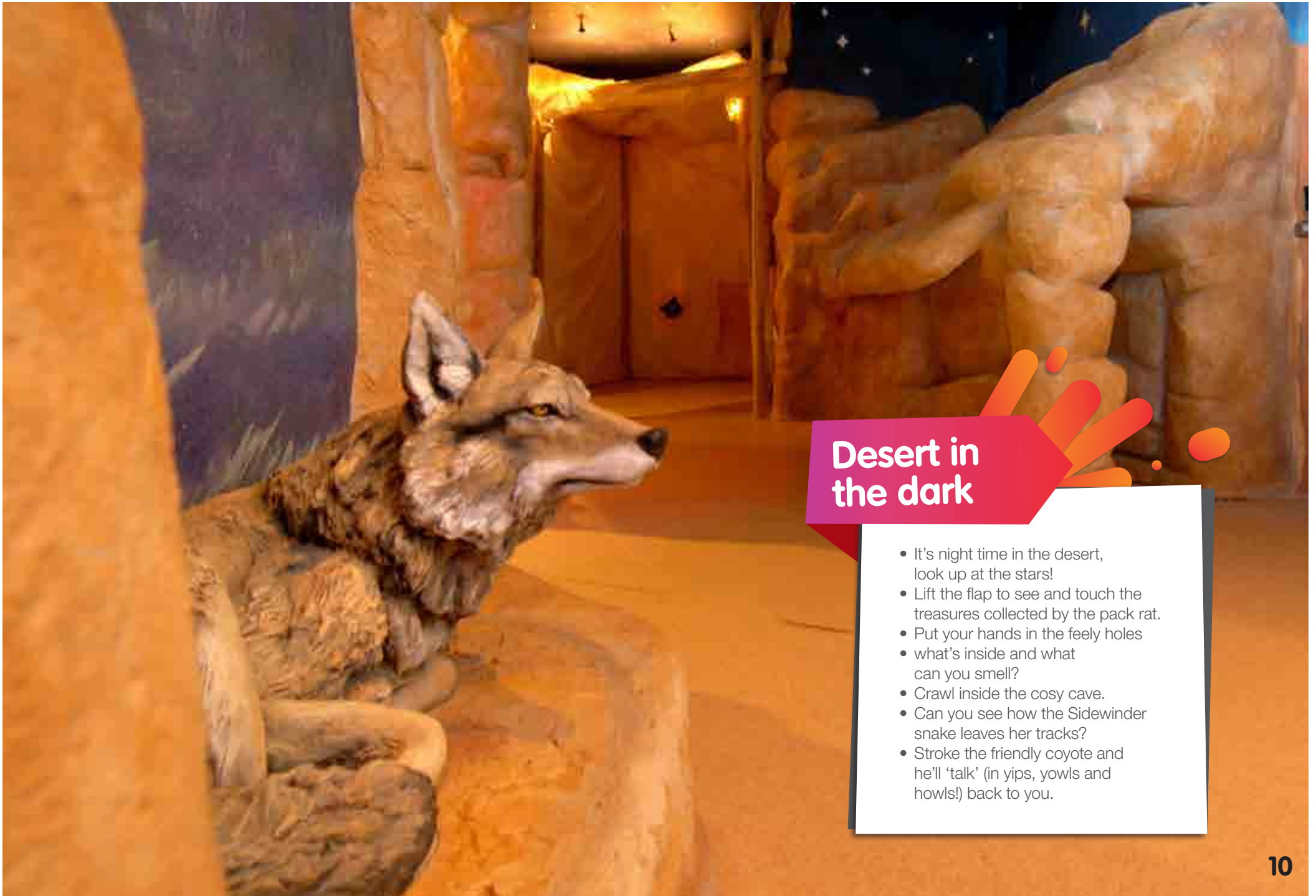


Storytime Tent

- Turn the big hand on the Day-Night clock and explore the storytime tent.
- Make yourself comfortable around the fire pit and tell your fellow adventurers a story.
- Dress up as a desert dweller and imagine what life is like living in a desert.

Oasis

- For babies and crawlers
- Sit inside the baby oasis with its very own palm tree.



Desert in the dark

- It's night time in the desert, look up at the stars!
- Lift the flap to see and touch the treasures collected by the pack rat.
- Put your hands in the feely holes
- what's inside and what can you smell?
- Crawl inside the cosy cave.
- Can you see how the Sidewinder snake leaves her tracks?
- Stroke the friendly coyote and he'll 'talk' (in yips, yowls and howls!) back to you.