About Thinkery

Thinkery is the name of Austin’s children’s museum.

There are many places to explore and lots of things to discover during a visit.

I can read about Thinkery in this booklet and I can also look at these websites to find more information.

thinkeryaustin.org
mystatesman.com/interactive/thinkery
Inside Thinkery

When I first walk inside, I will see the **Admissions Desk** on the left and Thinkery Shop on the right.

The **Admissions Desk** is where my grownup will pay for me to go inside Thinkery.

Sometimes there is a line, so we may have to wait a few minutes.
I can come back to the Admissions Desk and ask for **Sensory Bag**, filled with Ear Defenders, Thinkery Puffy, Sunglasses, and a Fidget Toy. If any of the exhibits are too noisy for me.

Sensory Backpacks
Thinkery Shop is across from the Admissions Desk.

There are many interesting toys to look at in Thinkery Shop.

My grown-up must buy a toy if I want to take it home with me.

It is okay if I don’t buy anything from the shop.
People who work at Thinkery are called **Staff**.

**Staff** wear red shirts and name tags. Sometimes they wear tan aprons that say “Thinkery.”

If I have a question or need help, I can ask anyone wearing a red Thinkery shirt or nametag.

If I get separated from my grown up, I can ask a **Staff** member to help me find them.

Staff also like to play and explore with me!
This is **Innovators’ Workshop**.

I can play with circuits and other interesting things here.

It is okay to touch and play with things in **Innovators’ Workshop**.

There might be a lot of other kids here, so I have to remember to share.

This space might be noisy.
**Paint Wall** is a piece of glass that I can make art on.

I may get messy if I paint, and that’s okay.

There are aprons I can wear so my clothes don’t get paint on them.

There are sinks where I can wash my hands if they get dirty.
In **Light Lab**, I can play with light and shadows.

I can pick up colorful pegs and put them in holes to make a light picture.

It will be a little dark in **Light Lab**, but there’s nothing scary inside.

I do not have to go inside if I don’t want to.

If there are other children playing, I will remember to share.
**Touch of Color Wall** is a touchable sensory wall inside Light Lab.

Push on the circles on the **Touch of Color Wall**, colors will begin to change color.

**Frozen Shadow Wall** is where I can take a picture of my shadow.

There is a bright flash when I take the picture. Sometimes I put my sunglasses on.
If the weather is nice, I might go outside to **Our Backyard**.

There is a water feature called **Springs**.

If my grown-up says it is okay, I can put my hands in **Springs**.

It’s not okay to splash, walk or swim in **Springs**.
The **Climber** is a climbing structure that is very tall.

I might want to play on the **Climber**.

I can go all the way to the ball on the top if I want to, but I don’t have to climb to the top.

If I start feeling scared, I can climb down or ask for help.

I will be careful of other children who are also on the **Climber**.
In **Currents**, I can play with water and music.

Sometimes it is loud in **Currents** because there are water drums.

And sometimes it is loud because of hand dryers.

That’s okay because it is fun to play with water.

If I do not want to play with the water, that is okay. I can stand and watch other kids play in the water.
This is **Story Nook**.

A staff person rings some bells to let everyone know when it’s story time.

There may be a lot of other children in **Story Nook**.

It’s okay to tell my grown-up if I don’t want to stay.

When story time is over, **Story Nook** can be a nice place to sit quietly and read a book.
This is **Fresh! Farmers’ Market**.

In **Fresh! Farmers’ Market**, I can play with pretend fruits and vegetables.

**Fresh! Farmers’ Market** has a play kitchen where I can pretend to cook a meal.

There are eggs in the chicken coop and pretend chickens, too.
Move! Studio is a place where I can move in lots of different ways.

I can run, jump, and climb. I can even hula hoop in Move! Studio.

Sometimes there are special events like yoga or parachute play.
There is an area called **Bloom** that is only for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups.

If I am three years old or older, then I cannot go into **Bloom**.

Children younger than three can play in **Bloom**.

Everyone who enters **Bloom** must take off their shoes.
There are **bathrooms** upstairs and downstairs.

I will let my grown-up know if I need to use the **bathroom**.

Some of the **bathrooms** have just one toilet, and other **bathrooms** have stalls.

The sound of the flushing toilet and the hand dryers can be loud.
If I need a break, there are some **quiet spaces** where I can sit.

In the **back hallway** upstairs, there are benches where I can rest.

There is also a **Quiet Room** upstairs where I can choose to take a break.

**Quiet Room** is also an area for nursing moms. If they would like more privacy. Nursing moms can choose to nurse anywhere in the museum.
Remember...

If I don’t see my grownup, I can ask **staff** to help me.

Staff and I will play until my grownup and I are reconnected.
Time to Go Home

I had fun at Thinkery.

Now it is time to go home.

When I leave, I can wave goodbye to the staff and say “See you next time!”

Even though I wish I could stay longer, I remember that I can come back to visit again soon.