

New BFK
Safety Policies
on Back Page!

BFK At Home: Virtual Programming

Empowered children, engaged parents, and energized communities — that's our mission at the Building for Kids. We strive to be a resource for families in our community. So when the national pandemic hit and the needs of our community shifted, we responded.

We created a virtual programming series on our social media platforms that encourages viewers to engage in multi-generational, play-based learning at home. Our videos range from science experiments to children's songs to art projects. We also partner with local organizations through live Facebook events to raise awareness and serve as a resource, exploring topics such as mental health, distance learning, and how to access other resources.



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When the Safer At Home Order changed to allow us to offer curbside pick-up services, we adapted again by introducing a series of free activity kits that allow our members to bring the BFK into their homes. These at-home activity kits include the supplies and instructions for four hands-on projects, each with a focus on STEM, Art, Community, and Storytelling.

We know that the Building for Kids plays an important role in the lives of families in our community, especially during these unprecedented and challenging times, and we will continue to support families through innovative and relevant virtual and at-home programming as we progress through the phases of the pandemic.

We have loved seeing our friends having fun with their BFK At Home Activity Kits! Read on to meet the BFK's Virtual Programming Stars!



Having Fun with BFK At Home

Upcoming BFK At Home Features

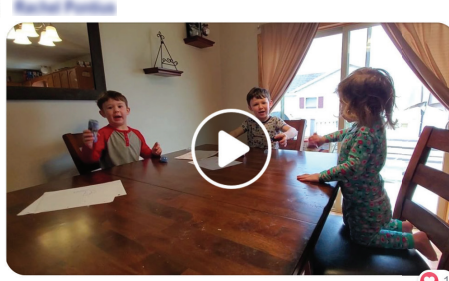
- **Roarsome Dinos**
- July 14 - 18
- **Music Makers**
- July 28 - August 1



Christine Patten Thank you Ms. Kim we had fun!



Love · Reply · Message · 6w



Love · Reply · Message · 6w

Rachel Patten We made our own shakers like your post and are having our own Munchkin and Me at home using your videos and mama's memory 🥰

Love · Reply · Message · 6w



Anne Elizabeth White BFK staff, you guys ROCK! Thanks for providing fun activities for families even during this uncertain time.

Love · Reply · Message · 6w

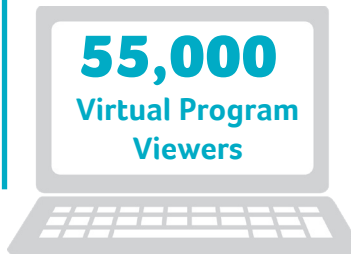


Anne Elizabeth White The twins were up moving and dancing with you Miss Kim! Thanks for still doing your movement class 🥰

Love · Reply · Message · 6w



By the Numbers



Meet Our Virtual Programming Stars



Breanna

"I love that we are reaching a broad audience of people — not just in our community, but other cities and states! My cousins in a different state were able to make slime with me thanks to our virtual programming!"

"I enjoy creating learning activities that families can experience together at home. It is good to know we are still able to create a space for family bonding and play-based learning."



Abby

What's been your favorite part of virtual programming?



Kim

"I love seeing the comments, videos, and pictures of all our friends taking part in our virtual programming and take home activity kits. It's great to be able to interact and stay connected despite our physical distance."

"It has been exciting to problem solve and share ideas with groups from a distance. I enjoy that we are able to provide resources for our community through creative partnerships with local agencies."



Michelle

Virtual Programming Partners and Sponsors



Donating to the BFK

During this unprecedented time, the Building for Kids has made it our goal to continue to serve the ever-changing needs of families in our community through safe and innovative ways. It is because of the generosity of our community that we are able to offer these services. If you are able, please consider helping us continue this work. To donate, see the remittance envelope included.

You can also give on our website, www.buildingforkids.org, or over the phone at 920-734-3226.

Director's Digest

Thank you for your continued engagement and for reading the second edition of the BFK Rocket Report! Earlier this year, when we launched the BFK Rocket Report, we could not have expected the level of disruption that our community and families would face. Through it all, we hope that you and your families have remained safe and healthy.

When the Building for Kids closed our doors on March 14th, it was out of concern for the health of our visitors and community. It is with this same level of care and caution that we will begin a phased re-opening of our building, guided by public health guidance and a commitment to keeping our visitors and staff safe.

Our phased re-opening plan, developed in consultation with local public health officials, consists of three principal phases with increasing levels of engagement inside our museum. Phase 1 consists of small group programming, Phase 2 expands to include private access to designated exhibit spaces, and Phase 3 involves metered museum entrance with limited capacity. Throughout all three phases, we will continue to serve our members and community through BFK At Home programming.

While we entered Phase 1 in June, there are no determined dates for progression through our other phases. These decisions, like the public health situation, remain dynamic and will be continuously evaluated. For the latest information regarding our safety procedures and our phased re-opening plan, monitor our website and Facebook page.

Throughout this closure, the Building for Kids has remained committed to retaining our team, engaging and empowering our members, and advocating for families in our community. Our ability to emerge from this crisis is only because of the continued dedication of our members, our staff, our supporters, and our volunteer board and committee members.

However, the impacts of this crisis will be long-lasting. We know from our members that many families are facing similar struggles and concerns as a result of this public health emergency. Families grapple with isolation and limited interaction with friends and family, while dealing with cancelled plans and



suspended daily routines. They also worry about their family's mental health and all that is unknown about the future in the coming months. The Building for Kids will continue to partner with these families and build innovative collaborations to support their unique needs.

As we work through a phased re-opening, we remain committed to serving our community and continuing to adapt to meet the needs of families throughout the Fox Valley. We know that this crisis has disrupted many family activities and plans, but we will continue to work to keep your family engaged this summer. We hope you will join the thousands of families who have participated in BFK At Home programming, and in July, we invite you to take part in a re-imagined US Venture Children's Week where we celebrate the creativity of children in our community.

This summer will certainly not look like any of us expected, but we are excited to brainstorm new and innovative ways to serve our community and engage your family.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Stay well,

Oliver Zornow
Executive Director



Phase 1 & 2 Re-opening Safety Procedures

If your family registers for a scheduled visit to the BFK, please remember these 5 policies:

1. Masks are required for all visitors 3 years and older
2. Visitors are encouraged to wash their hands regularly
3. All visitors must sanitize hands upon entry of the building
4. Household groups must maintain 6 feet of physical distance from staff and other groups
5. Visitors should stay home if they or anyone in their household is sick



Member Spotlight

— Stephanie Otto —

How long have you been a member at the BFK?

My family has been attending the BFK since we moved to Oshkosh back in September of 2015. My son was almost 1 ½ years old at the time. Since then, my daughter (3 years old) has joined our family and has been visiting the BFK since birth.

Why did you become a member?

As soon as my husband accepted a position in Oshkosh, I began my work trying to find activities for myself and my son to participate in. A quick internet search of children's activities brought up the BFK. We visited once, immediately became members, and have been attending ever since. Being a stay at home mom, it was important for both my son and I to get out of the house, socialize with others, and enrich the play and learning we were doing at home.

Why is the BFK an important part of our community?

When we initially made the decision to move to Wisconsin, we were told that we would LOVE how family friendly the area is. This was encouraging to hear although I don't think we really grasped exactly what was meant by it. Now, I completely understand! We are so fortunate to have a children's museum the size and quality of the BFK. It far surpasses many other museums that we have visited in cities much larger than the Fox Cities. It is a symbol and very visibly represents what the Fox Cities believes and supports.



What has the BFK meant to your family?

The BFK has played a large part in our lives for the five years we have lived in Wisconsin. Although we have made many friends, we unfortunately don't have any family in the area. This can be especially tough around holidays when everyone hangs with their family. Many of the BFK's holiday events have helped us make these days special for our children. We have attended Halloween, Christmas, and New Years events and have participated in countless programs around many other themes and holidays. These events have helped give our children something special and memorable.

How has the BFK been a resource to your family during this time of social distancing?

My kids have both greatly enjoyed the BFK At Home activity kits we've been able to pick up and complete at home. Although there is no way to replicate the experience of visiting the BFK, we greatly appreciate the efforts to bring part of the experience home. The BFK at Home emails, geared specifically to different ages, have been great activities to break up our day. We're fortunate to be living at a time when we're able to visit zoos, museums, storytimes, and classes all virtually. There are so many choices out there, but it is nice to "stay local" and see some familiar faces on the BFK emails and virtual programs.

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