Chicago Children’s Museum + Institute of Design
Create a place that kids can make their own to inhabit, build, explore and imagine.
Kids are born with incredible play instincts.
Developmental Goals

Motor Skills
- hand-eye coordination
- manipulation

Cognition
- problem solving
- connections to prior knowledge
- decision making
- spatial awareness
- critical thinking
- planning
- strategic thinking

Exploration
- wayfinding
- experimentation
- discovery

Creative Expression
- emotional response
- role play
- dramatic play
- imagination

Social Connections
- conversation
- collaboration
- team work
“...all play should be meaningful, and all learning should be playful.”
Design Principles
scalable interactive universal elemental playful
Inspired by a child at play.
Break it down to simple elements...
put it in their hands...
they’ll know what to do.
{video}
CCM Prototyping
We saw a nice range of age level interest and activity levels.
Gavin the master builder. He started with smaller blocks and worked his way to larger ones.
Over
Around &
Through
Over, Around & Through

Floor Plan
Over, Around & Through

climb  build  swing  dance
scoot  crawl  bound
find  tag  search  hide
Over, Around & Through

Components
Blocks

Developmental Goals
- gross motor skills
- decision making
- collaboration
- creative expression
Blocks
The Big “H”
Blocks
Stacking
Blocks
Climbing
Maze

Developmental Goals

wayfinding
dramatic play
spatial awareness
team work
Maze
Wayfinding
Maze
Hinges
Maze

Hiding
Structure

Developmental Goals

motor skills
exploration
dramatic play
Structure

Building
Structure
Climbing
Structure
Matching
Structure

Velcro
Over, Around & Through
CMF Palette

Materials
Safe Space Concepts
foam and vinyl construction

Colors

- tomato
- royal
- emerald
- sun yellow
- fjord blue
- adobe white
Over, Around & Through
Thanks!
Come on up and have a look at our scale mock-up.