



MY VISIT TO FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK



Meijer Gardens is a big place! There are indoor gardens and outdoor gardens. There are sculptures of all sizes, both indoors and outdoors. Many people enjoy walking in the gardens and looking at the plants and sculptures.



Some children come to Meijer Gardens with their families. Sometimes, they come with their teachers and their friends from school.



Student Field Trips at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Before I come to Meijer Gardens with my teachers and friends, I can watch this movie called “Know Before You Go” to see what the visit might be like.

Before I visit Meijer Gardens with my family, I can read this book, then ask my family what we will see and do on our visit.





Whether I visit Meijer Gardens with my teachers or my family, I need to get ready. I need to wear comfortable shoes because I will be walking a lot.

I might bring a water bottle and snacks. I might need to bring a lunch if my group is staying all day.



When I arrive, I might need to wait outside or in the entryway with my group while an adult gets our tickets. I might need to wait inside. I will stay with my adult. If it gets loud, I can ask my adult for a quiet place to stand and wait.



Whether I am indoors or outdoors, with my family or my class, I will follow the rules at Meijer Gardens:

1. Stay with an adult.
2. Keep hands and feet off the sculptures and plants.
3. Walk instead of run.

People who work at Meijer Gardens wear name tags.
They can help me if I have a question or get separated
from my adults.





There are five indoor garden areas. Each one looks and smells different and has different types of plants. I can use my eyes to see and my nose to smell! Touching plants and sculptures is bad for them.



The largest indoor garden area is the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory. In the spring, this area is filled with butterflies! During the rest of the year there are many things to see—including very tall tropical plants, some birds, a bridge and a waterfall. This room is very warm to help the plants grow. I can ask my adult to lead me out of the room if I get too warm.



There are a library, a café and a gift shop inside the building. There is also a sculpture gallery.



There is a small play area for younger children called the Curiosity Courtyard.



When my group goes outside, we may visit the Lena Meijer Children's Garden. There are many things I can touch and explore there! I can climb into the Treehouse Village. I can walk into a log cabin and look around. I can dig in the sandy rock quarry.

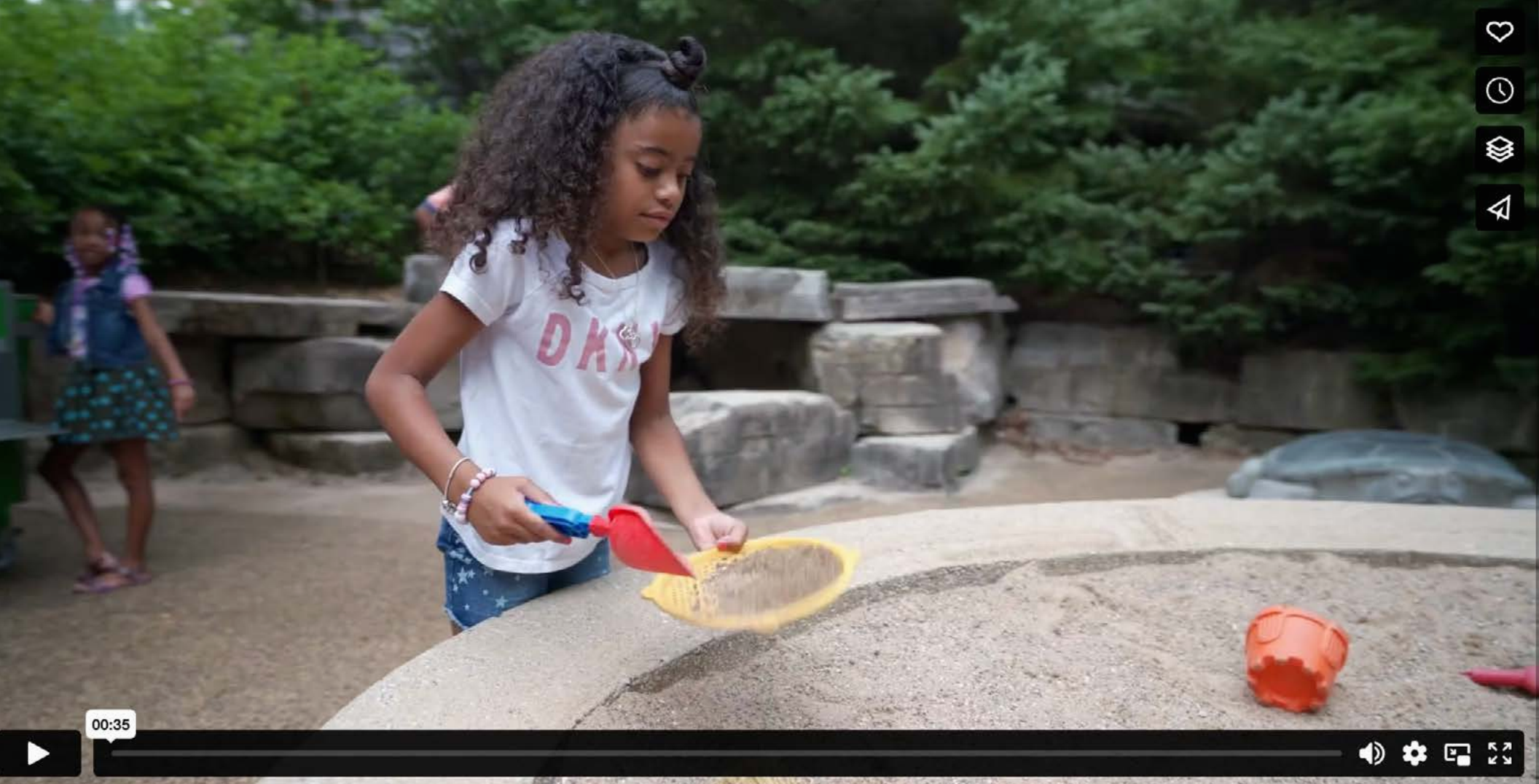


During warmer months, there is a here is a water area with boats in the Children's Garden. I can put my hands in the water. I can play with the boats or I can watch my friends play. The water is not for swimming so I will keep my body out.



Sometimes there are fun activities happening in the Children's Garden. It might get crowded or loud. I can ask my adult to walk with me to a quieter area if the activity is too loud for me.

Wherever I go in the Children's Garden, I will walk so everyone is safe.



I can watch this video to learn more about the Lena Meijer Children's Garden: bit.ly/LMCG_Vimeo

My group might also visit The Richard & Helen DeVos Japanese Garden. I will see water, trees, long branches, pathways and bridges. The water is for looking but not swimming.

The spaces and paths may sometimes feel small. I can always ask my adult for help.





My group might also visit Michigan's Farm Garden. I will see a barn and several sculptures of farm animals. Everyone stays off the sculptures so no one gets hurt. The vegetables and flowers are for everyone to look at. Only the Meijer Gardens staff touches them and picks them.



If I get thirsty, I will tell my adult. I can get a drink or fill up my water bottle at a drinking fountain.

If I need to use the bathroom, I will tell my adult. There are restrooms indoors and outdoors. Signs will show us the way to find the restrooms.



If I feel frustrated or things get too loud at Meijer Gardens, I will tell my adult that I need a quiet break. I will walk with the adult to a quiet area. I will stay there until I feel calm and then I will walk back to my group.

If I visit Meijer Gardens with my teacher and friends, we might go on a guided tour. Our guide will tell us about sculptures or plants. I will listen and raise my hand to share my thoughts or ask a question.



If I visit Meijer Gardens with my teacher and friends, we also might have a lesson or an activity in a classroom. I will listen and raise my hand to share my thoughts or ask a question.



Meijer Gardens is a big place. There are many things to see and do so I probably won't get to see it all at one visit. If I feel frustrated, I can tell my adult. I might get to come back some other day.





At the end of my day at Meijer Gardens, I may feel very sleepy and tired. I can take a nap in the car or on the bus as long as I stay in my seat. I may also feel frustrated that my visit is over. If I feel frustrated, I can take deep breaths to calm down.



MY VISIT TO MEIJER GARDENS

When I am finished reading this book, I can read it again or during my field trip for reminders on how to stay safe and calm!



Scan to learn more
about the Lena Meijer
Children's Garden.