

cit 

sciences
et industrie

**des
enfants**



PRESS KIT



EDITORIAL

“

30 years already!

30 years ago, the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie inaugurated the Cité des enfants, a pioneering museography project dedicated to children.

Since then, more than fifteen million young visitors and people tagging along have wandered through these discovery areas, which offer activities to awaken their curiosity, experiment and actively observe. Here, collaboration is the only rule and making mistakes is encouraged, in order to allow children to develop their talents.

Universcience is very happy to celebrate this anniversary with its audience, which will undoubtedly be an opportunity for both children and adults to remember the best moments of their visits to the Cité des enfants.



”

Bruno Maquart
CEO of Universcience

2

EDITORIAL

4

30 YEARS: A PARTY FULL OF SURPRISES!

6

ONCE UPON A TIME LA CITÉ.

8

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CITÉ DES ENFANTS?...

TESTIMONIES AND EXPERTS VIEWS

12

GAME OF DARES

WHAT GOES ON AT CITE DES ENFANTS?

20

A CITÉ THAT MAKES LITTLE EXPLORERS...

CONTENTS



30 YEARS: A PARTY FULL OF SURPRISES!

**ANNI-
VERSARY
WEEK-
END**

ON THE WEEKEND OF THE 10-11 DECEMBER

THE ENTIRE CITÉ DES SCIENCES

ET DE L'INDUSTRIE

CELEBRATES THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS

**WIN
TICKETS**

**SPECIAL
PHOTO-
CALL TO
CAPTURE
YOUR VISIT**

IMMORTALIZE YOUR VISIT



**CALL
FOR
TESTI-
MONIALS**

FROM 5 TO 7 DECEMBER 2022

SHARE

THE BEST MEMORIES

IN AN ORIGINAL WAY

TALK
Children at the
museum, it's
all a matter of
perspective*

This talk is addressed to
childhood professionals,
and it will question the
way things are done
as well as the role of
children in and outside
the museum

ALSO

**POSTERS
AND
SURPRISES**



30 YEARS: A PARTY FULL OF SURPRISES!



* temporary title

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS LA CITÉ...



AN INNOVATIVE CONCEPT

OFFERING A SPACE DEDICATED TO CHILDREN HAS BEEN PART OF THE CITÉ DES SCIENCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE'S CORE MISSION FROM THE START.

As early as in the 1979 mission report written by Professor Maurice Levy, the Cité was imagined as a special place to make young people familiar with scientific and technical presentations. This report suggests 200m² discovery rooms containing many simple experiments, games and hands-on activities that give free rein to the imagination and creativity.

A puppet theatre is even considered in order to explain physical phenomena to stimulate the children's interest in their technological environment.



1986

THE CITÉ DES SCIENCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE OPENS WITH THE INVENTORIUM, A PERMANENT 1850M² SPACE FOR CHILDREN, DIVIDED IN TWO, BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF THE DISCOVERY ROOMS.

Since its opening, the inventorium team created several temporary exhibitions, testing different demonstrations, devices, on subjects such as light, water, the animal world...

One room is for 3-6-year-olds, the other for 5-12-year-olds.

Children can wander around as they wish, without a pre-established itinerary. They learn while having fun under the watchful eye of an adult.

1992

THE INVENTORIUM BECOMES THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS, NOW OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 3 AND OVER.

Particular attention is paid to the quality of the presentations: adapted ergonomics, reliability, simple and neat design.



2007

THE CITÉ EXPANDS

BETWEEN 2005 AND 2009, THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS EXPANDS GOING FROM 2,600 TO 5,000M² AND BECOMES ACCESSIBLE FROM THE AGE OF 2.

A concept, developed with the support of early childhood professionals, which has been acclaimed by several generations of children and parents, demonstrates the expertise of the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie in terms of fun and educational museography. With joyful and positive offers, through play, discovery, and exploration, the Cité des enfants contributes to the development and awakening of the youngest while offering a unique awareness of science and technology.



TODAY

THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS TRAVELS THE GLOBE

THANKS TO ITS SUCCESS, THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS IS EXTENDING ITS OFFER FOR THE LITTLE ONES AROUND THE WORLD AND IN DIFFERENT FORMATS.

Temporary exhibitions for children, activities to be carried out at home or at school and content to be discovered online are being developed. The Cité also shares its expertise in science museography adapted to the youngest visitors with numerous cultural projects throughout the world. Thus, since its creation, several cultural spaces for children have been created in France: the Vaisseau in Strasbourg, Vulcania in Clermont-Ferrand, the Lillenum in Lille. And around the world: the Pass in Mons, Belgium, Little explorers in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, La Città dei bambini in Genoa, Italy, the Science Museum in Hong Kong, the Macao Science Center in China...

KEY FIGURES

OVER 15 MILLION VISITORS SINCE 1992

700,000 VISITORS PER YEAR

5 000 M² OF EXHIBITION SPACE

including:
the Cité des enfants 2-7 years & 5-12 years and the exhibitions in the Petits Curieux category

240 EXHIBITION ITEMS

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS LA CITÉ...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CITÉ DES ENFANTS?

On the anniversary of the Cité des enfants, the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie interviewed its first young visitors who have grown up since. Whether they were regulars, subscribers or even celebrities, here are their memories...

3 QUESTIONS TO SMALL VISITORS WHO HAVE NOW GROWN UP

1

WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY?

2

AS A CHILD, WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE ACTIVITY AT THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS?

3

TODAY, DO YOU RECOMMEND VISITING THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS?



COLINE, 20 YEARS OLD

1 As a child, I took part in the photo shoot to illustrate the different parts of Cité des enfants. I am the little girl in the garden area with an apron and tomatoes in my hands. I was intimidated and a tomato slipped out of my hand during the shoot; it crashed at my feet, I burst out laughing and that's what's shown in the photo.

2 I remember coming with friends and spending hours imagining movie scenes in the studio. I don't know how many times I said: "Quiet on the set, we're shooting!"

3 Yes, because the Cité des enfants is an ideal space to dream and meet new people thanks to the creative and collaborative spirit of hands-on activities.



SIMON, 22 YEARS OLD

1 I remember coming one day, when there were few people. We almost had the big Cité des enfants all to ourselves, which allowed us to stay at the water games for a long time.

2 The anthill without hesitation! To observe the ants, to be inside their "house"; I liked the cocoon aspect of this activity where you are hidden a bit like an ant.

3 Yes, to allow a child to have fun, to move, to be active in a context of scientific discovery as well as to open up to the world, to curiosity.



OCTAVE, 34 YEARS OLD

1 Ah, my memories are quite distant now, but I especially remember the excitement before entering the Cité... And I also particularly remember the anthill, where we followed real ants after having contorted ourselves to go underground! It was quite an adventure...

2 I think that the weather forecast, and the news made a particular impression on me, because it was really "like in real life", with the camera and the overlay of the weather on the map. And I also remember the wooden gear structures which fascinated me!

3 Of course! I'm already taking my daughter there, who, like all children, asks a lot "Why?" The memories I have of the Cité are not only playful: I learned and understood so many things there and often came out passionate about nature and the way elements work.



SARAH, 16 YEARS OLD

1 I remember coming with my little sister and my cousins to the Cité des enfants and having a great time despite our age differences, especially around the water games and the space recreating a film set.

2 My favourite activity was building the little paper box. I was proud to make a beautiful object on my own to store my treasures in.

3 Yes, because the Cité des enfants is a space for everyone, whatever our interests or our age, there is no risk of getting bored.

CITÉ DES ENFANTS IN ONE WORD?

AMAZEMENT

FUN

MAGIC

CLEVER

AMUSING!

QUENTIN, 29 YEARS OLD

1 My best memory is the entrance to the Cité des enfants and the rush to go through and touch everything.

2 Hands down, the building site, where the children dressed in workers' clothes, were each doing a different task.

3 Absolutely! It is impossible for a child to leave disappointed from this place where our curiosity is constantly sparked.



WHICH OF THESE CELEBRITIES HAS NEVER BEEN TO THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS?

- Melanie Griffith
- Antonio Banderas
- Céline Dion
- Queen Elisabeth II
- Natalie Portman
- Anne Sinclair
- Alicia Keys
- Sophie Marceau
- Gad Elmaleh
- Christine Lagarde

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CITÉ DES ENFANTS?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CITÉ DES ENFANTS?

IN THE WORDS OF THE EXPERTS



PROFESSEUR MARCEL RUFO

Child psychiatrist, university professor APHM Aix-Marseille

"Play" is the child's job, but it is also a pleasure that proves their immense appetite for learning. In this respect, the Cité des enfants is a privileged space. Child development specialists place great emphasis on the importance of free play. Children who play alone demonstrate their independence. They also play with their peers, of course, and observation of playgrounds allows us to see their progress in sociability and sharing, but unfortunately the equipment is often basic and a whole category of research is aimed at improving it. **The tools made available at the Cité des enfants** (such as water games, mazes, mirrors, the world of ants) **allow the discovery of physical properties, the animal world and time and space awareness.** In addition, parents can learn new things and children can share the joy of their discoveries with them.



JULIE DELALANDE

Childhood ethnologist, University of Caen

The Cité des enfants offers a rich space that encourages interaction between children, while boosting their sense of initiative. The various activities are the result of collaboration with researchers and therefore offer scenarios that children can use to play together or alone. Through play, they help to develop peer collaboration, observation, agility and motor skills. Children socialise in an environment that stimulates their senses and provokes a lot of enthusiasm.

Specialist videos are available on cite-sciences.fr. They provide keys to understanding the activities of the Cité des enfants.



“
Playing at the Cité des enfants is the gate to culture and discovering the world
”

Professor Marcel Rufo



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CITÉ DES ENFANTS?

GAME OF DARES

SO WHAT GOES ON AT THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS?

From the development of children and their physical, cognitive and spatial faculties to their openness to the world and to others: the Cité des enfants (2-7-year-olds and 5-12-year-olds) offers a series of games where autonomy rules everything!

To help adults find their place in this space, pictograms suggest that they play with their children, encourage them or simply observe them.

Special attention has been paid to the disabled public and most of the activities are accessible to all



1700 m² & 5 espaces thématiques

LA CITÉ DES ENFANTS 2-7 ANS

1 I DISCOVER MYSELF

IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THEIR ABILITY TO LEARN, YOUNG CHILDREN MUST DISCOVER THEMSELVES AND BUILD THEIR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SOCIAL IDENTITY THROUGH 5 STAGES :

MY BODY

allows you to play with your image. Here, children examine themselves from every angle: in pieces or in full, from behind or in profile, on a screen or in relief, they can even play with the sound of their voice!

MY ABILITIES

helps to develop sensory abilities and to raise awareness of the difficulties experienced by people who are deprived of one or more of their senses. Children perceive their senses and put their flexibility to the test.

MY EMOTIONS

helps children to identify and recognise their own and other people's emotions so that they can communicate with them.

GROWING UP

makes them aware of the evolution of their size over time, and in relation to objects or their peers.

MY SURROUNDINGS

accompanies them in the construction of their social identity and of their personality. With multimedia, surrounded by family and friends, they create a virtual character that they watch live and grow.



2 I CAN DO IT

BY MANIPULATING OBJECTS, WORDS AND SYMBOLS, CHILDREN SHARPEN THEIR PERCEPTION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD. THE TWO INSTALLATIONS PRESENTED IN THIS SECTION STIMULATE AND ENRICH THEIR COGNITIVE FACULTIES.

BALLS

Here, little visitors anticipate their path and develop their ability to establish the link between an action and its result. A ball placed here will come out there.

THE PLAYCRAFT

This monumental installation invites children to repair, tinker with, decorate and operate a "special ship", where inventiveness and cooperation are required!

Build and repair

At the back of the structure, the youngest add or remove decorative parts using screws, screwdrivers, and spanners. On the front, they open or close spaces with different types of buttonholes to

repair the hull of the engine.

Decorate

Plus loin ils décoorent les roues du vaisseau spécial avec deux postes de dessins numériques sur lesquels ils peuvent dessiner librement ou sélectionner des motifs et des couleurs.

Acting on machines

A machine room inside the ship encourages children to interact with wheels, pulleys, and gears in different ways.

Piloting

On the deck of the boat, children become captains and have fun manipulating the controls on a large dashboard.

Imagining - Drawing

Workbenches around the ship offer activities related to the construction stages: children learn about planning and logical reasoning.



3

I LOCATE MYSELF

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, EXPLORING SPACE AND TAKING OWNERSHIP OF IT GO HAND IN HAND WITH THE MASTERY OF THE BODY, LANGUAGE AND THE NOTION OF TIME. ALL THESE SKILLS CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR INTELLECTUAL AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT.

CIRCUIT FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Acquiring good motor skills requires the mobility of one's body and the exploration of space: moving forward, sneaking, moving

backwards, crawling etc.

CIRCUIT FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Still with the same goal, this more difficult circuit is strewn with amusing pitfalls that the children try to overcome...

THE MAZE

In this maze with sufficiently low walls visitors move forward, orient themselves and find their bearings to try to reach the exit.

THE GIANT FOLDOUTS

Here, the little ones manipulate simple geometric shapes and create volumes of their own size in which they can nestle.

THE RIGHT POINT OF VIEW

This game consists of adopting the right point of view to see the shape of an animal appear according to the principle of anamorphosis.



4

I EXPERIMENT

CHILDREN ARE TIRELESS QUESTIONERS. THEY ARE CURIOUS AND WANT TO KNOW THE NAME OF THINGS AND UNDERSTAND THE PHENOMENA THEY OBSERVE. THIS SPACE, DIVIDED INTO 3 PARTS, INTRODUCES THEM TO THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH.

WATER

Children discover the different properties of water: it flows, deflects and its force can set systems in motion.

AIR

Understand everything about this intangible element! The air can be felt but not seen and sometimes it can be used to animate objects...

LIGHT

In this space, young visitors get familiar with certain properties of light and shadow by manipulating objects: they create black or coloured shadows, making them bigger or smaller.

5

ALL TOGETHER

CHILDREN CONSTRUCT THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL IDENTITY BY OBSERVING OTHERS, COPYING THEM OR DOING THE OPPOSITE

BUILDING SITE FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Dedicated to 2 - 3-year-olds, this workshop encourages children to work together to build a house. Children learn to communicate and organise themselves.

BUILDING SITE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

This one, intended for 4-7-year-olds, allows them to transport bricks in wagons, to assemble them with the help of a crane and to work together to build a house.

THE CIRCUS

With this very beautiful installation, they make circus acts (tightrope walker, balancing act, shadow theatre...) and compose a poetic show together, which they share and show to the adult audience.



GAME OF DARES

**CITÉ DES ENFANTS
5-12
YEARS-OLD**

2100 m²
& 6 thematic
areas

**1
THE BODY**

Listening to their heartbeat, trying to keep their balance on a funny bike, admiring what goes on inside their body, transforming their appearance with a computer... All these activities allow children to discover how they are made and what they are capable of. In this way, they realise that the human body is an amazing, impressive "machine"! As they grow up, children become more aware of their abilities and appearance, which change day by day. This is how they create what is commonly called their "identity".



**2
COMMUNICATION**

How can we communicate other than with the Internet, computers or telephones? Children whispering to make themselves heard, making signs to make themselves understood, interpreting drawings or speaking in Chinese and Arabic... While this may not seem as effective and as sophisticated as technology, it is essential for understanding others!



**3
THE TV STUDIO**

Filming an orchestra or acting in playback, presenting the news with the help of a prompter, moving a camera fixed on a trolley to create a travelling cinema scene... welcome to the TV studio! Here little visitors get behind the camera and discover the behind-the-scenes production of the images they see on television or at the cinema.



4

THE GARDEN

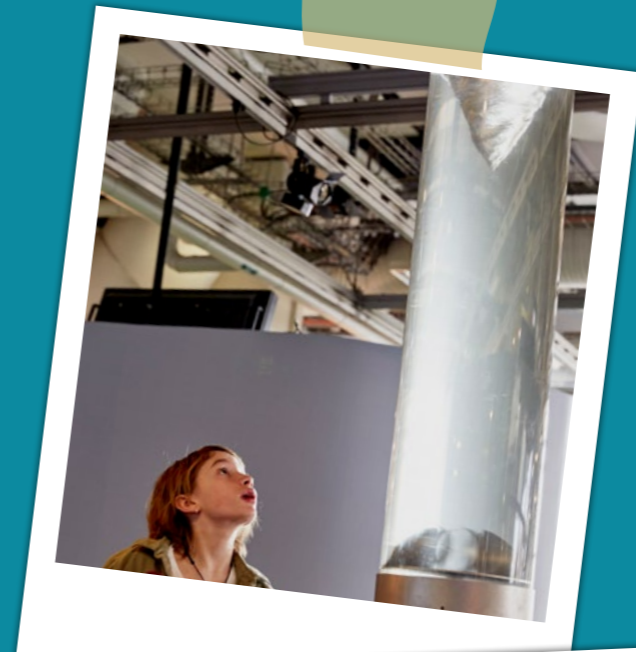
A garden is a small world where a lot of animals, plants and insects live... Here, it's time for observation! Next to an anthill, children contemplate and analyse the organisation of ants living in colonies. In the humidity of a tropical greenhouse, they examine butterflies at different stages of their development: eggs, caterpillars, cocoons, flying butterflies. With a bit of luck, one of them will land on their hand! Further on, they see tomatoes growing and evolving in rapid succession.



5

WATER GAMES

Pumping water, pushing balls, blowing up water bubbles or building dams... water is everywhere in this space! And without realising it, children get up close and personal with scientific and technical phenomena: What is density? What is flow? Pressure?



6

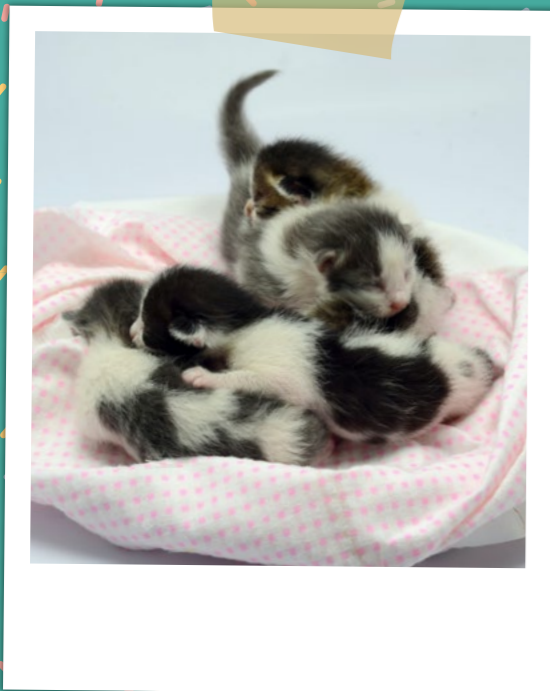
THE FACTORY

Different objects that children use every day are made in factories. In this space, they use a machine to make a cardboard box or produce the electricity to turn on a TV that cannot work without energy. And speaking of energy, they must turn the windmills to see which one is the most efficient! The aim is to show that the world we live in is populated by objects that are the result of human work and ingenuity.



GAME OF DARES

A CITÉ THAT MAKES LITTLE EXPLORERS...



AT SCHOOL



SCHOOLS AND LEISURE CENTRES, AS WELL AS FAMILIES, REGULARLY COME TO THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS.

To facilitate the organization of their visit, the Cité's scientific mediators provide them with online educational documents aimed at building a programme composed of independent and supervised activities according to the chosen thematic sections. In addition to the free exploration of the space, an demonstration commented by a mediator can be proposed during the session. The themes vary to be adapted to the programme and the age of the children.

AT HOME



WHAT IF CHILDREN COULD REPRODUCE THEIR FAVOURITE TRICKS FROM THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS AT HOME?

Closed between 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie has adapted and offered its visitors a multitude of smart and fun activities for all ages, free of charge. Grouped together under the name "#lascienceestlà" (science is here), this digital content includes the must-see activities of the Cité des enfants. For this purpose, the mediation team regularly updates a dedicated page on the website of the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie where children can find the key elements that have made this space a success. Currently, about fifteen experiments are presented per section so that the young public can discover, find their way around, experiment, make things, and even play and move around as they would on site.

AT THE LAB DE LA CITÉ DES BÉBÉS



SINCE JULY 2019, THE CITÉ DES SCIENCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE HAS BEEN GO-DESIGNING WITH THE PUBLIC A NEW TEMPORARY SPACE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 23 MONTHS: THE LAB DE LA CITÉ DES BÉBÉS.

The experimental 250 m2 lab is free for babies accompanied by one or two adults. Designed as a secure nest, it focuses on the awakening, sensory-motor development and well-being of the child. Floor, walls, lighting, games and cuddly toys: the space is deliberately plastic-and screen-free! Playful and evolving, it is based on the know-how that has made the Cité des enfants a success: adult-child activities, stimulation of sensory, motor and cognitive skills... Like its big sister, the Cité des enfants, the Lab offers online content for its visitors. And above all! The Lab is being transformed into the Cité des bébés.

See you in April 2023.

A CITÉ THAT MAKES LITTLE EXPLORERS...

A CITÉ THAT MAKES LITTLE EXPLORERS...

WITH THE "PETITS CURIEUX" EXHIBITIONS

BECAUSE CHILDREN LIKE TO BE SURPRISED, TO QUESTION THEMSELVES AND TACKLE PHILOSOPHICAL AND ABSTRACT CONCEPTS, THE CITÉ DES SCIENCES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE HAS BEEN DEVELOPING A PETITS CURIEUX / LA SCIENCE ÉLÉMENTAIRE EDITORIAL LINE SINCE 2018, BRINGING TOGETHER EXHIBITIONS INTENDED FOR CHILDREN AGED 2 TO 7.

These exhibitions offer a range of contemplative, active and participatory experiences that awakens children's curiosity about the world around them, using methods that take advantage of the latest advances in educational science. Thus Cabanes (Cabins) was presented to the public from December 2018 to January 2020, then Contraires (Opposites) between February 2020 and January 2022. Currently, the Fragile! exhibition welcomes children aged 2 to 6 until January 2023. It will be followed by the exhibition Metamorphoses, for 5-11-year-olds on 28 March 2023.



ONLINE

PODCASTS CO-PRODUCED WITH FRANCE INTER

For storytime fans, there is OLMA, a podcast programme from France Inter and the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie. Mathieu Vidard, the presenter of the programme La Terre au carré and his dog Philippine introduce the children to OLMA, a machine powered by the world's knowledge, to discover sciences. In the course of the episodes, many scientists such as the astrophysicist Hubert Reeves, geophysicist Marianne Metois, polar photographer Rémy Marion, physicist Étienne Klein and many others are invited to, in the words of Einstein, "answer children's questions with an adult's brain".

RESOURCES FOR TEENS AND PRE-TEENS

As an extension of the Cité des enfants online, the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie has created a resource space for pre-teens and young teenagers between 9 and 14 years old entitled Juniors. Quizzes, online games and applications, simulations, and free-access videos help them think while having fun. Several themes are available: agriculture, environment, art, society, energy, health... where children test their own knowledge on the subject.



BOARDING FOR THE CITÉ DES ENFANTS OF THE FUTURE

30 YEARS LATER, A NEW CITÉ DES ENFANTS IS IN THE WORKS!

The Cité des enfants is preparing a makeover. This new version will be even more committed, anchored in the real world and in line with the challenges of tomorrow. It will be based on the experience, the game, the creativity and the imagination of children to better bring them to observe and understand the world in which they grow up. The Cité des enfants will continue to present the must-see elements that have been popular for generations of young visitors and will be enriched with new key elements to offer an exciting and renewed visiting experience.



With the support of MAIF
The raison d'être of MAIF, a company with a mission, is to pay genuine attention to others and to act for the common good. From the outset, it has campaigned for everyone to have access to education, an essential condition for equal opportunities. It is committed to sharing knowledge and cultures and forms partnerships with organisations that are committed to a more united and equitable society. This is the case of Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, which shares the same values as MAIF. MAIF has been supporting the Cité des enfants since 1992 because culture enriches us and brings us together. By enabling everyone to grow and develop their knowledge, it opens the door to confidence.

And also with the support of the EDF Foundation, the BTP Plus Foundation and Mustela.



#CiteDesEnfants cite-sciences.fr

Cité des sciences et de l'industrie
30 avenue Corentin-Cariou
75019 Paris

📍 Porte de la Villette 📍 3b
📞 139, 150, 152, 71

Open every day except Monday, from 10am to 6pm,
and until 7pm on Sunday.

RESERVATION RECOMMENDED ON CITE-SCIENCES.FR

The Cité des enfants operates in 1.5-hour sessions.

Full price: 12 €
Reduced rate: 9 € (over 65s, teachers, under 25s,
large families and students).

Free for children under 2 years old, jobseekers and people receiving minimum social benefits, people with disabilities and their accompanying person.



PRESS CONTACTS

Aurore Wils
+33 1 40 05 70 15 / 6 46 66 18 97
aurore.wils@universcience.fr

Laure-Anne Le Coat
+33 1 40 05 75 04 / 6 17 44 56 24
laure-anne.lecoat@universcience.fr

Karine Emonet-Villain
Deputy Communications Director
+33 1 40 05 74 67 / 6 11 66 91 05
karine.emonetvillain@universcience.fr

Romain Pigenel
Director of Audience Development
and Communication
romain.pigenel@universcience.fr

