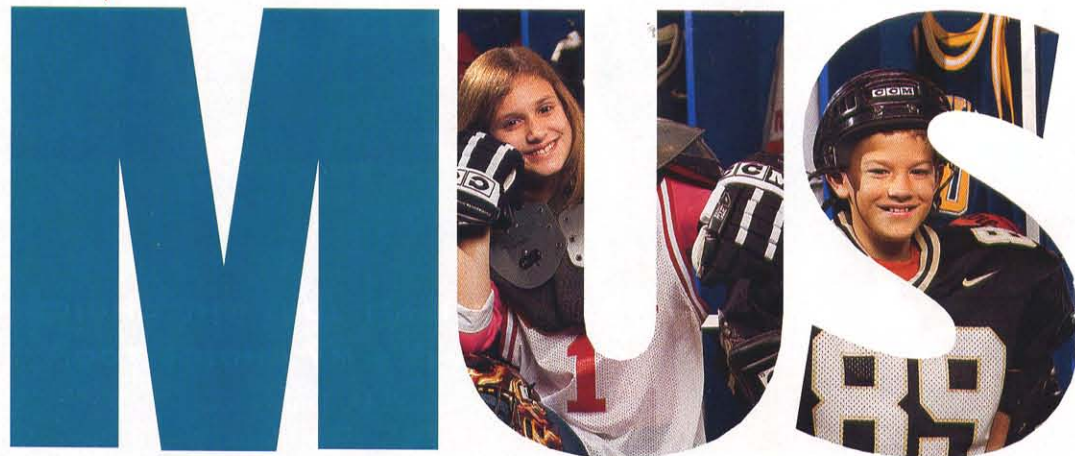




COMING TO A



What do Dr. Seuss books, team sports, Saturday morning cartoons, and outer space all have in common? They're the topics of this year's best hands-on **traveling exhibits** for families, and they're now entertaining crowds at museums across the country. Knowing how much our readers love a great indoor escape, we sent families to check them out. You'll find their first-hand accounts on the following pages.

EXHIBIT 1

TEAM UP!

Time your fast-ball, play goalie in a virtual soccer match, and test your skills on a pommel horse at this action-packed sports-themed exhibit.

EXHIBIT 2

ANIMATION

Create an animated movie, practice your voice acting, and star in a short special-effects film at this celebration of cartoons.

EXHIBIT 4

SPACE

Touch a moon rock, explore a Mars base camp, and take a spin on a space bike at this far-out show.



NEAR YOU

EXHIBIT 3

DR. SEUSS

Ride a train with Sam I Am, create your own Circus McGurkus, and piece together a Throm-dim-bu-la-tor in a salute to the beloved author.



EXHIBIT 1 **Team Up!** Exploring Science Through Sports

Since this traveling exhibit was in our neck of the woods recently, my family and some friends loaded up a couple of vans with our kids (ages 6 through 15) to check it out. We spent about an hour exploring the show's 15 stations, and we discovered that you don't have to be a scientist or a sports junkie to have a blast. Unlike exhibits that warn "do not touch" or "for eyes only," **Team Up!** begs for kids to get involved, body and brains. There isn't a single velvet rope in sight. Here, some highlights that make this exhibit a winner.

1 Coolest tech effect: Our whole crew loved the challenge of being a soccer goalie bombarded by incoming balls in a virtual reality system called *Get in the Game*. Standing on a large mat, players watch themselves on a TV screen; as they move, so does their screen image. Competition was heated, but eventually all nine of them were standing on the mat together — laughing, shouting, flailing their arms and legs wildly while they tried collectively to beat the top score.

2 Best photo opportunity: The Locker Room, stocked with real sports gear — football helmets, hockey masks, huge jerseys — had me grabbing for my camera. The shot of the girls testing out size-15 basketball sneakers is definitely one for the

scrapbook. (And for the record, the older boys were certainly NOT dressing up ... just, well, "trying stuff on.")

3 A reason to bring the video camera too: Kids can make up their own routines on the balance beam and pommel horse in the *Balancing Act* section ... a made-for-TV moment, especially since our girls were still wearing their getups from the nearby Locker Room!

4 The top crowd-pleaser: The radar-equipped pitching booth let the kids live out their major-league fantasies and put their fastballs to the test. While the older ones in our group attempted to break 50 to 60 mph (and they did!), the youngest were thrilled to see ANY number flash above their

heads, proving that they had at least hit the target at the end of the tunnel. They all returned to the booth again and again, hoping to smash the newest record. Even the big kids (aka parents) had a blast at this challenge.

5 Biggest mystery revealed: Who hasn't wondered what's inside of a baseball, volleyball, or even a bocce ball? The station called *Inside Scoop* saved us the trouble of hacking up our own sports equipment to find out. More than a dozen dissected items were mounted on a display board for kids to get their hands on. Lots of fun facts were included too, such as why golf balls have dimples and why hockey pucks are tossed into the freezer prior to gametime.

Where to See It

Discovery Science Center, Fort Collins, Colorado: Now through April; www.dscm.org

Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Dayton, Ohio: October through December; www.boonshoftmuseum.org

WonderLab in Bloomington, Indiana: February 2007 through May 2007; www.wonderlab.org

For more information, including a more extensive itinerary, go to www.astc.org