

What can we do (or do more of) as a community to enhance the wellbeing of children?

- 1 A splash pad would be so nice, and a large playground that has an area for older kids as well as younger kids.
- 2 Access for all kids especially low income families
- 3 Active and imagination play, inclusive to all people and abilities
- 4 Activities for all ages, affordable,
- 5 Activities, events and venues like this
- 6 Activities. There is currently nothing for children to enjoy in the winter months. We have enough gyms already.
- 7 Add a children's museum
- 8 Address the astronomical prices of day care.
- 9 Allow them to express themselves as they see themselves.
- 10 Besides beaches and parks there's only the Y and library for indoor play, nothing screams come visit GH year round with you family. But having more kid friendly family based places (children's museum, zoo/aquarium, indoor water park, etc) would increase tourism year round and encourage young families to move here
- 11 Be accepting of all children, offer safe and affordable spaces (free passes that can be checked out at the library possibly), be inclusive!
- 12 Be family friendly to groups with lots of children, expect anything that is in the museum to be played with a lot, employ kind people who are patient with kids. If you have to have a gift shop, close it off to the museum, it's rude to make it confusing to children whether the gift shop toys are apart of the museum toys.
- 13 Be inclusive
- 14 Be inclusive to kids and families
- 15 Being present and involved
- 16 Bring diversity to children and expand world interactions
- 17 Bring more activities or a new skating area
- 18 Build a museum. Maintain play places. Perhaps having supervision from the community at key play places.
- 19 Community events
- 20 Create a children's museum
- 21 Create a safe space where kids of all ages are able to learn and have fun.
- 22 Create a warm welcoming environment where kids interact with one another. In person communication and collaboration are difficult for children who have been raised in a virtual world. Having a place where kids can have fun and be a kid with others is important. Even for our middle school aged kids. The town has gotten rid of sooooo many businesses (roller rink, bowling alley, etc) and areas where kids of ALL ages can gather and have fun in an interactive way, we really need more spaces where they can be kids again. Building a place with a sense of community and belonging for all.
- 23 Create financially accessible places to foster family bonding and learning
- 24 Create more experiences geared toward children, where they can just be kids
- 25 create more opportunities for experiences
- 26 Create more truly affordable things to do for children 5-12yrs old that goes year round.
- 27 Create safe places in our city for children have a place to play, learn and socialize.
- 28 Create/expand accessible and safe areas for play and community for children and their guardians.
- 29 Creating safe places to go
- 30 Creating spaces that are accessible for children and their loved ones to spend time together. I think this is already happening and a children museum enhances this. We also need more childcare options but that's not your job to fix.
- 31 Doing great with everything!
- 32 Easy access active play spaces available to children of all demographics.
- 33 Education and importance of being patient and kind
- 34 Educational learning and exploration
- 35 Embrace children with special needs and create a place that's special for kids in a town that is quickly becoming quite geared for old retirees.
- 36 Encourage accessibility and inclusion
- 37 Encourage interaction among families
- 38 Encourage learning, diversity, kindness, and inclusion
- 39 Encouraging access to the outdoors, exhibits that highlight diversity within our community, safe water/safe swim exhibits, exhibits that highlight impacts of climate change on our community, etc.
- 40 Encouraging family togetherness
- 41 Engage them in their community
- 42 Engaging programs with a variety of activities
- 43 Ensure inclusivity and accessibility. Specifically, for children with developmental, mental/behavioral, or physical health differences, but also those from other demographics- racial, religious, low-income, etc.

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- 44 Expose them to different opportunities, give everyone an opportunity to learn
- 45 Fun and safe activities for all ages. It would be awesome to have a place where older kids would want to hang out with friends
- 46 General Community Involvement, Being a place where all kids feel accepted
- 47 Get along with each other better and collaborate on community projects like we did in the past with the musical fountain and boardwalk
- 48 Give children more things to do
- 49 Give them more spaces to be children and play, have more events that are child friendly, have discounts for families with low income families/educators/military/special needs, lots and lots of free resources that help families.
- 50 Give them opportunities to be involved
- 51 Give them space to be kids and discover what intrigues them.
- 52 hands on exhibits that are opened for learning a place to learn
- 53 have a bigger splash pad and park similar to the one in grandville
- 54 Have an inclusive place both ability and age (the 6-10 year olds are often in a weird gap that gets left out)
- 55 Have avenues where are children can be able to be themselves to enjoy the area like playgrounds, roller skating rinks, arcades
- 56 Have more activities for families
- 57 Have more activities that children can participate in
- 58 Have more activities. Right now we regularly go to the splash pad and the park. There are few winter activities.
- 59 Have more educational activities, this children's museum would be a good start
- 60 Have more places for them to BE kids! To explore and fail and make messes and build and grow.
- 61 Have more places like museums, splash pad, kid areas
- 62 Have more safe locations to play
- 63 Have places and activities for multi age families including teenagers
- 64 Have places that are safe for children to play or go.
- 65 Have resources/activities for multiple ages at the same time.
- 66 Having affordable enriching activities for our children
- 67 Having family friendly options that show understanding for the logistics of safely managing an outing with children would be a great start. Access to convenient parking, restrooms and family friendly food vendors nearby.
- 68 Having fun activities for kids and families at an affordable price
- 69 Healthy events as well as events that open them up to the diverse world we live in.
- 70 Healthy options for kids to eat, more places for kids to play away from screens
- 71 Help create more areas for kids and even teens to hang out and visit especially for winter time. Maybe a system for anyone who's struggling to help her a free or reduce membership.
- 72 Homeschool days- weekday afternoons
- 73 Honestly, just providing more safe, welcoming, places for children to learn, play, and grow is what we need. :)
- 74 Improve cultural sensitivity
- 75 inclusive spaces for LGBTQ kids
- 76 Increase diversity, equity, and inclusion of all people
- 77 Indoor and outdoor experiences for children of all ages.
- 78 Indoor playgrounds and social opportunities
- 79 Indoor space to run, play, create in cold winter months. Workshops/classes like YMCA, library, Home Depot vibe
- 80 Interactive programs that pair fully physically abled children with children with different abilities. Joint fieldtrips with area schools and maybe schools like the Ottawa Area center
- 81 Just having things for them to do! Homeschooling is HUGE now and we need more local activities!!
- 82 Keep as much green space as possible, have a Leed certified building, not increase traffic
- 83 Keep family events accessible and low cost or free.
- 84 later
- 85 Learning opportunities, craft opportunities, art contests, kid themed events with games and prizes
- 86 Listen to them, respect them, play with them. Give them time and space to play and be kids.
- 87 Local low cost family events
- 88 make all aspects of their lives easier, make options accessible
- 89 Make things they can touch and climb
- 90 More activities
- 91 More activities for families & children
- 92 More activities geared toward younger (<10yo), affordability of activities

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- 93 More affordable family friendly activities
- 94 More community engagement for families
- 95 More educational and fun activities.
- 96 More educational opportunities
- 97 More educational places that fit a wide variety of ages, safe place, inclusive for all ages/cognitive levels, and sensory needs
- 98 More engaging, kid friendly activities
- 99 More family activities, more mom connection opportunities, more emphasis on things for locals
- 100 More family friendly places for kids to explore and play where parents can engage with their children or have a safe place for kids to play while parents socialize/work. Currently most options are bars/breweries as far as indoor places to go in town. More family friendly events would be great year round too. Food/concessions would be nice. Nursing rooms, changing tables, small toilets. Really geared toward kids and convenience for parents would all enhance the visitors experience.
- 101 More family friendly, kid type activities in town. We don't have much here to do for the kids during colder months.
- 102 More indoor & outdoor playgrounds/play areas/splash pad
- 103 More indoor or cold weather not snow activities
- 104 More kid friendly activities
- 105 More kid friendly activities and venues
- 106 More kid friendly events and camps that are free or low cost.
- 107 More kid-friendly activities, that are more affordable.
- 108 More local indoor activity centers for the cold winter months.
- 109 more opportunities for families to have fun together, supporting diversity including neurodiversity
- 110 More opportunities for learning a variety of subjects
- 111 More opportunities for outdoor education (forest schools), more secular preschool options, Spanish immersion programs in all public schools, more designated/safer bike paths
- 112 More options for tweens
- 113 More parks and indoor play areas.
- 114 More play groups, library story times more often, allow for independent exploration
- 115 More regular events that are different activities for the kids to gather and learn/play
- 116 More spaces for children to gather besides the wonderful library
- 117 More spaces for children.
- 118 More things to get them engaged and educated outside of just the library. There isn't a lot to do, especially in the winter months here
- 119 Movement
- 120 Neurodiversity affirming, inclusive
- 121 Not sure
- 122 Offer additional opportunities for educational play and year round spaces.
- 123 Offer more activities tailored to children of all ages outside of the library or YMCA
- 124 Offer more family friendly activities locally. It seems like everything is in Grand Rapids or Holland or Muskegon
- 125 Offer more fun events for youth. Family activities during cold or rainy days.
- 126 Offer more opportunities for kids under 18 to gather, learn, move their bodies and have fun with their families.
- 127 Offer them child's play spaces
- 128 Offer wholesome places for our "older kids".
- 129 Offering discounted prices to those who live and/work in the area
- 130 Opportunities like this would be great.
- 131 Places for them to interact outside of school with other children. Positive educational and social emotional experiences.
- 132 Positive learning experienced
- 133 Promote different programs of learning, especially math & science concentrations
- 134 promote public safety, interest in science and stem activities, environmental care emphasis
- 135 Promoting more early childhood activities, learning, etc
- 136 Provide a fun place for kids to play
- 137 Provide a museum
- 138 Provide a place for children to explore the world around them.
- 139 provide a safe environment
- 140 provide a space to gather and organize special events that foster collaborative play
- 141 Provide affordable activities that families can engage in together
- 142 Provide family friendly activities that are affordable

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- 143 Provide fun
- 144 Provide fun!
- 145 Provide more engaging opportunities for the children of the Tri-Cities
- 146 Provide more opportunities for children to engage with each other in meaningful ways. Help families spend time together in an enriching environment. It would be awesome if the museum held events for families as well (story time, crafting time, parenting nights, etc).
- 147 Provide more opportunities for them like this! Things they can do in any weather to get together with other members of the community and create relationships with each other while having wonderful learning experiences.
- 148 Provide more options for places for kids to go and play during the winter or rainy days.
- 149 provide more spaces like this!
- 150 Provide more year-round play places that are fun and educational
- 151 Provide opportunities
- 152 provide opportunities for them to play and explore
- 153 provide opportunities like this
- 154 Provide safe and fun environments to learn and grow in community
- 155 Provide safe areas to play and learn
- 156 Provide safe community spaces for learning, exploring, creativity
- 157 Provide them with more kid friendly spaces
- 158 Provide welcoming learning environments for all children to be accepted and grow.
- 159 Push STEAM
- 160 Reading events for all ages, especially young ones. Volunteer opportunities.
- 161 Rotate exhibits/toys so kids can go often and not get bored.
- 162 Safe place to explore and learn. Make it affordable for parents to be able to purchase a membership. Parking and fun for all ages.
- 163 Safe place to learn and explore
- 164 Safe place to play and explore
- 165 Safe places to be a kids and learn!
- 166 safe space to play
- 167 Safe spaces for children and young families to visit
- 168 Safer environment downtown
- 169 Safety and accessibility for all ages
- 170 Safety while being educated
- 171 Science based learning and creativity.
- 172 Science or bilingual programs
- 173 Screen-free play
- 174 Security measures
- 175 Seems like GH is a great place for kids. I'm not sure what a Children's Museum is...but we love the downtown museum
- 176 Share cited sources of research used for decision making most fitting to current global and local conditions. For example, these distractions or educational components address children's fears or anxiety. Your expertise in this area could not only stand out from a typical children's museum but help families be informed and united in providing nurturing experiences.
- 177 Space to explore interests - we also need more STEM and music opportunities for younger kids. Very sports focused community. I have two children with special needs who don't play sports but like science, music and gaming. Feature diversity in advertising and imagery within the museum (eg disability, race etc)
- 178 Stem play, imaginative play, music
- 179 Support families needing assistance...food, housing, employment, child care
- 180 support families of all walks of life, help those families in need
- 181 Support parents.
- 182 Support public education
- 183 Support their interests and creativity. Teach them how to contribute to the community in unique and helpful ways.
- 184 Teach children how to prevent being trafficked. Teach them budgeting, finance, accounting. Teach them Spanish. Teach them how to listen to others.
- 185 Teach kids about the past in a fun way.
- 186 Teach parents good parenting skills
- 187 Teacher

What can we do (or do more of) as a community to enhance the wellbeing of children?

- 188 There are a lot of children in the county with disabilities. We (and other families we know) specifically moved here because of the educational services available here for kids with severe disabilities. In the summer there are plenty of accessible community opportunities, but it's very difficult in the winter to find fun things to do that are accessible and inclusive. I would love to see the children's museum and other places help to fill this gap!
- 189 This is a great start!
- 190 Unsure
- 191 Vote for pro-education politicians, advocate for higher teacher salaries
- 192 Wagon accessibility
- 193 We are fortunate to reside in a community that is family friendly and offers many low cost/free recreational activities that take advantage of our beautiful parks, lakes etc. As a community, we need to ensure that the basic needs of our children our being met (ie housing, food, clothing) as well as education. They go hand in hand.
- 194 We need more spaces for children and families: places to explore together, connect socially (coffee and food in a kid friendly environment), and play physically! We need an indoor space for children to play, we need play cafes where moms can drink coffee and their kids can be kids with spaces that feel like theirs and toys or supplies to entertain them.