

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Story Time at the Illinois State Museum Gets a Make Over**

*Monthly Story Time program becomes Museum Play Date Jan. 14*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Story Time programs at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield have been expanded to include even more hands-on learning for children and a new name: Museum Play Date. Preschoolers and their caregivers will still enjoy stories and a craft, but Museum Play Date programs will also include interactive games, songs, and objects from the Museum’s collections.

The first Museum Play Date will be “Day at the Beach” on Tuesday, January 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Participants will see strange and wonderful marine fossils from Illinois’ watery prehistoric past, build a sand castle, hear stories about creatures who live on the beach, and create an aquarium craft.

Museum Play Date will take place at the ISM on the second Tuesday of each month and is recommended for children ages 3-5 with an adult. Museum Play Date is free with Museum admission and is sponsored by Bank of Springfield.

For more information please contact Sarah Davis at events@illinoisstatemuseum.org or (217) 782-6044.

The Illinois State Museum is located at 502 S. Spring Street in Springfield. It is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults ages 19-64.

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