# Children's Museum of Phoenix Teams Up with Partners to Assist in Learning (Pal)

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Children's Museum of Phoenix has taken steps to insure that even more children have the opportunity to enjoy its exhibits and activities by teaming up with Partners to Assist in Learning (Pal). The partnership means that the Museum will offer custom Pal Video and a digital, mobile-friendly Pal Guide to support visitors with autism, anxiety and other learning differences. The new resources are free to the public at PalExperiences.org, and will be celebrated during the Museum's upcoming Special Night of Play on Saturday, August 26, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Other Valley Pal Place partners include Arizona Diamondbacks and the Phoenix Suns.

Special Night of Play is an event designed for families with children impacted by special needs, offering them Museum access during a less crowded and more peaceful atmosphere compared to regular business hours. Admission is free but reservations are required for entry. Attendance is limited to 600 visitors. (The event is currently sold out.)

By offering these tools, the Museum becomes a "Pal Place", which means they're taking steps to offer custom resources that support visitors with so-called "non-visible" disabilities, like autism. According to the 2010 US Census and the Return on Disability Group's 2016 Annual Report, "The Global Economics of Disability", 71 percent of the 56 million Americans with disabilities have cognitive or learning disabilities that are referred to as "non-visible," because their disabilities are not immediately obvious.

"Fortunately, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) helped make public accommodations for people with mobility challenges much more common," said Pal's CEO, Adam Isaacs. "But folks with autism - and millions of others who struggle with anxiety, communication, and sensory sensitivities – are rarely offered accommodations that help them have more successful away-from-home experiences. By partnering with Pal Places like the Children's Museum of Phoenix, we're hoping to change that."