



***Book a Very Special Visit to the Museum of Discovery and Science for the New Traveling Exhibit, Very Eric Carle, Presented Locally by Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans***

*Beginning September 16, MODS' guests will step into the pages of author Eric Carle's "Very" Series and explore themes of hope, hard work, persistence and friendship at this special exhibition*

**Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (September 6, 2022)** – [Very Eric Carle: A Very Hungry, Quiet, Lonely, Clumsy, Busy](#) exhibit, presented locally by Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans, opens at the [Museum of Discovery and Science \(MODS\)](#) on Friday, September 16 and runs through Monday, January 9, 2023. Co-organized by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA, **Very Eric Carle** is the first North American traveling exhibit for children inspired by the art of beloved children's book author and illustrator Eric Carle.

"We are so very excited to bring the vibrant Eric Carle exhibit to the Museum," said **Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS**. "This exhibit experience is a wonderful way for children – and adults – to step into STEAM by connecting with the characters from the beloved children's book series."

"With *Very Eric Carle*, colorful adventures await," said **Caitlin Stella, CEO of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital**. "At Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, we are proud to support the work of MODS that awakens the imagination to engage, educate and inspire healthy growth and development for children in our community."

Exhibit visitors will step into the pages of Eric Carle's colorful picture books. His classic "Very" series, all illustrated in his hand-painted tissue paper collage technique, introduces five special insects who take journeys of discovery. Each story is a testament to Eric Carle's love of nature, his respect for the emotional lives of children, and his recurring themes of friendship, creativity, and the power of imagination. Visitors will:

- Become the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* as they follow his path
- Weave a web with the *Very Busy Spider*
- Find their light with the *Very Lonely Firefly*
- Make the *Very Clumsy Click Beetle* flip and jump
- Compose a night symphony with the *Very Quiet Cricket*

- Create artwork using many of Eric Carle's materials and techniques
- Enjoy a gallery of prints from Eric Carle's *Very Series*

"The *Very Eric Carle* exhibit is a great opportunity for families to help their children open their minds and learn new ways," said **John D. Rood, Florida Prepaid College Board Chairman**. "Today's aspiring artists, scientists, illustrators, engineers and astronauts become tomorrow's college graduates. We love partnering with MODS to bring this exhibit so parents can support their children's curious minds, while thinking about how to save affordably for their college experience."

For more information and to book a visit, please go to [mods.org](https://mods.org).

*Very Eric Carle: A Very Hungry, Quiet, Lonely, Clumsy, Busy* exhibit was co-organized by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. TM & © 2022 Penguin Random House LLC. All Rights Reserved.

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#### **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE (MODS):**

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. MODS connects people to inspiring science, providing STEM education and cultural experiences for 450,000+ visitors annually in the 150,000 sq. ft. facility. MODS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) for three decades (only 3% of science museums are accredited for excellence and leadership in the field). In the past year, MODS has added to that distinction by being named *Broward's Hub for Resilience Education* by the Board of the Community Foundation of Broward, selected by the LEGO Foundation as one of only 12 museums nationwide to join the *Playful Learning Museum Network* and was selected as one of 15 finalists for the prestigious *2022 IMLS National Medal for Museum Service*.

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit [mods.org](https://mods.org) or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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Twitter: [twitter.com/modsftl](https://twitter.com/modsftl)

Instagram: [instagram.com/modsftl](https://instagram.com/modsftl)

#### **ABOUT JOE DIMAGGIO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:**

[Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital](https://www.joedimaggiochildrens.com) is one of Florida's leading pediatric hospitals, offering a comprehensive scope of healthcare services and programs in a caring, compassionate setting designed specifically for children. The level one pediatric trauma center combines advanced technology, the expertise of some of the region's most diverse, board-certified specialists, and a patient and family-centered focus to heal the body, mind, and spirit of those it touches. Part of the [Memorial Healthcare System](https://www.memorialhealthcare.com), the pediatric hospital in Hollywood, Florida, is expanding to add four

floors, adding 72 new patient rooms, two cardiac hybrid operating rooms, two surgical suites, intensive care and cardiac intensive care units, an intraoperative MRI, play zones, rehab, and family support areas. As an advocate for children's healthcare and related causes, the 226-bed facility has also extended its services to Palm Beach County with the Joe DiMaggio Health Specialty Center in Wellington. To learn more, visit [jdch.com](http://jdch.com) and connect with @jdchospital on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

#### **ABOUT THE FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE BOARD:**

The Florida Prepaid College Board manages the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program and the Florida 529 Savings Plan. Both are tax-favored 529 college savings plans authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. In 1987 the Florida Prepaid College Program was created by the Florida Legislature and the commitment and dedication of Mr. Stanley G. Tate to provide Florida families with an affordable means to save for their children's future college education. The first Florida Prepaid College Plans were sold in 1988 and were augmented with the addition of the Florida 529 Savings Plan in 2002. The Board also oversees two direct-support organizations – The Florida Prepaid College Foundation and Florida ABLE, Inc., d/b/a ABLE United. Florida Prepaid is the largest, longest running and most successful prepaid plan in the nation with more than 2 million Florida Prepaid College Plans purchased and more than \$15 billion in assets. The 529 Savings Plan has more than 100,000 active accounts with a market value of more than \$1 billion. For more information, please visit [myfloridaprepaid.com](http://myfloridaprepaid.com).

#### **ABOUT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PITTSBURGH:**

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is a place that delights and inspires children, where they can take off on fantastic flights of imagination daily, and return to earth to splash in a river, hammer a nail and ink a silkscreen. With 80,000 square feet of space the Museum welcomes nearly 275,000 visitors annually and provides tons of fun and loads of "real stuff" experiences for play and learning. Permanent hands-on, interactive exhibit areas at the Museum include The Studio, Theater, Waterplay, Attic, Nursery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®. The Museum's award-winning, three-story, center building is screened by a shimmering wind Sculpture and connects two historic structures (Allegheny Post Office Building & the Buhl Building). In 2006 the Museum became a certified green building and was honored by the American Institute for Architects and the National Historic Preservation Trust. In 2011 the Museum was named as one of the nation's ten top children's museums by Parents magazine. For further information, call 412- 322-5058 or visit [pittsburghkids.org](http://pittsburghkids.org).

#### **ABOUT ERIC CARLE AND THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART:**

Eric Carle is the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The mission of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, a non-profit organization in Amherst, MA, is to inspire a love of art and reading through picture books. The only full-scale museum of its kind in the United States, The Carle collects, preserves, presents, and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from around the world. In addition to underscoring the cultural, historical, and artistic significance of picture books and their art form, The Carle offers educational programs that provide a foundation for arts integration and literacy. Eric and Barbara Carle founded the Museum in November 2002. Since opening, the 40,000-square foot facility has served more than half a million visitors, including 30,000 schoolchildren. The Carle

houses more than 13,000 objects, including 6,600 permanent collection illustrations. For further information, visit the Museum's website at [carlemuseum.org](http://carlemuseum.org).

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