

‘When I was little’ – Memory Sharing at the Museum

‘When I was little’ is a free activity for children aged three – seven to enjoy with their grandparents or older relatives at National Museums Liverpool museums and galleries. The activities are designed to allow children and older people to experience the museum together, explore museum objects and share stories and memories.

At the Museum of Liverpool and Lady Lever Art Gallery children can borrow a ‘When I was little’ backpack from the welcome desk. Inside, children will find their very own album in which they can record their grown-up’s childhood memories with words or drawings. Throughout the album there are lots of activities for young visitors and their grown-ups to work on together, using objects from the backpack. After their visit, they can keep the album to remember their special trip to the museum together.



At the Museum of Liverpool, children and their grown-up can build structures out of building blocks, inspired by the Meccano towers on the ground floor, before making their way up to the Liverpool Overhead Railway carriage. Once at the carriage, the album asks children to find their tickets inside the backpack, as well as a toy picnic for them to enjoy together. It asks: “What food did their grown-up eat at childhood picnics?”

On the second floor, children and their grown-up can use the binoculars from the backpack to look at the boats sailing down the River Mersey. Or, they can read a book together in the Tent of Stories, using puppets from the backpack to help bring the book to life. After a fun-filled trip around the museum, children and their grown-up can take the backpack down to the café. Here, they can play a game of snap or look through their album together.

‘When I was little’ launched in 2014 as part of the *House of Memories* programme which offers training, access to resources, and museum-based activities to enable carers to provide person-centred care for people living with dementia. *House of Memories* believes that museums are great at looking after people’s memories, using object-based reminiscence work to encourage memory sharing.

‘When I was little’ provides a fun opportunity for children and older people to explore the museum together, bridging the gap between the older and younger generations, teaching the value of unlocking memories - while making new ones.

To find out more about ‘When I was little’, and the wider *House of Memories* programme, visit houseofmemories.co.uk or email learning@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk .