



## Innovative Learning: How We Do It

- Inquiry and object-based learning
- Enriched learning for all students
- Behind the scenes experiences
- Students learn from The Rooms experts like curators, archivists, conservators and collections managers
- Stimulating learning resources like artwork, artifacts, archival material and specimens

The Chevron Open Minds Program allows students to immerse themselves in a new environment and learn at a slower pace. Students observe things around them in-depth. The program enhances the students' observation, perception, writing and drawing skills by making meaningful connections to the real world.

## Where to find Us

For information on the Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms program, visit us online at:  
[www.therooms.ca/schoolsandkids/open\\_minds.asp](http://www.therooms.ca/schoolsandkids/open_minds.asp)

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## Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms

One class. Five days.  
Countless opportunities to explore.



## Why it works

Working with The Rooms Program Coordinator, teachers develop a unique curriculum-based program and move their class to The Rooms for an entire week, allowing students to learn in innovative ways! Students are encouraged to engage in critical thinking and problem solving in The Rooms Archives, Art Gallery and Museum.

Research has shown that students' participation in the Chevron Open Minds Program has a significant impact on **writing** skills. Deeper **learning** and **enhanced literacy** skills also result from this immersion in the real world.



## How it all started

The Open Minds concept began as an experiment when a Grade Three class went to the Calgary Zoo every day for a week in 1993. The next year the Open Minds Zoo School program was started at the Calgary Zoo, followed by a similar program at the Glenbow Museum in 1995. Chevron Canada became the first corporate funder in 1995 and now fully funds five sites in Canada. Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms is the newest and only program east of Alberta.

*"...if only each school day was 12 hours!"* – Student

*"...Fantastic! Engaging! Student Focused! Huge thanks to curators, artists, archivists, program coordinators – All amazing teachers!"* – Teacher

*"[My son] loves to learn, second only to sports. This experience... put sports second."*  
– Parent

*"...there were 3 or 4 curators changing part of an exhibit and they asked for my help!"* – Student

*"...doing a picture of The Narrows ... was sort of like putting a rainbow in a blender."* – Student

*"Seeing the students so enthusiastic and engaged in all our curriculum-linked activities was AMAZING ... All activities achieved curriculum outcomes..."*  
– Teacher

*"Make it 2 weeks long!"* – Teacher

*"...I had more fun than the children. The teachers and artists were fantastic"* – Teacher

*"It has introduced them to areas and ways of learning that they have never experienced before"* – Parent

Chevron Canada was the recipient of the Global Best Award for the Americas in 2008 for its role in this exciting innovative education initiative.