National Air and Space Museum
Early Childhood Programs

Flights of Fancy
October 22, 2008
10:30 to 12:00

Astronaut Door with Curiosity Zone
Welcome Center, Gallery 108

Missie Works with Curiosity Zone
Welcome Center, Gallery 108

Explore Flight with Curiosity Zone
Welcome Center, Gallery 108

Recycled Rockets with Vladimirescu at Rockville
Space Race, Gallery 114

Decorate an Airplane
Baron Munch, Pioneer of Flight, Gallery 104

Enjoy Live Music with Rockonomics
Space Race, Gallery 114

These programs are made possible through the generous support of the Carroll N. Hill Foundation.

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

SCIENCE IN PRE-K
A Partnership between PNC Grow Up Great, DCPS and the National Air and Space Museum

Grow Up Great
What is inquiry?

A process of gaining understanding through questioning and exploring.

- in-depth
- over time
- many facets
- one complex topic or question
- exploration
What are young children like?

- They are active.
- They are concrete.
- They are curious.
- They ask questions.
- They use their imaginations.
- They listen to and tell stories.
Science in Pre-K Professional Development

• 5 year collaboration with DCPS

• Funded by a Grow Up Great with Science grant from PNC Foundation

• Steady growth of program and gradual buy-in from all levels
• 7 class sessions at the museum
• mentoring, field trips, classroom visits
• for lead and assistant teachers
• based on Young Scientist Series and EDC model for professional development
TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT BUILDING STRUCTURES
STUDENTS BUILD STRUCTURES
Documentation - students draw their work
teachers explore
Shadows and Light
students explore Shadows and Light
teachers test
physical properties of water
students test physical properties of water
Fully aware of how science is critical in these early years, I can now build on children's natural interest in our world and how things work. The hands-on, exploratory approach to training teachers gave a working model with which to build a truly meaningful experience for the children...I am now encouraged to develop my own skills in questioning and will seek training to do so.

-Ayanna Flowers

The focus was clearly on learning new skills for inquiry that stimulate the students to find their own answers or at least to refine their questions...That concept was new to me and totally refreshing to learn.

-Sybil Peace
Reserved School Programs
Drop-in story time for families
Programs link children’s literature to museum objects
sensory opportunities
Model building and arts
Hands-on, active learning
dramatic play
Building memorable learning experiences!
designing an aircraft

Inspired by the National Air and Space Museum
You try it!

- Explore the available materials
- Design an aircraft
- Build your design
- Test it. Will it fly?
- Refine.
Please share your Seriously Amazing stories!

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