



Glasgow Science Centre

Shortlisted for Family Learning to Support STEM in partnership with Maths on Toast

Glasgow Science Centre work closely with local communities to tackle inequality and promote positive perceptions, interest, and understanding of science. With over 450 interactive exhibits, an IMAX cinema, a digital planetarium, and a science show theatre, it offers a wide range of comprehensive and inclusive learning and events programmes suitable for all ages and abilities.

The colour of maths is red!

During Math's Week Scotland 2022, Glasgow Science Centre hosted seven family maths workshops, engaging families in hands-on maths through rangoli artwork, tangram shapes and the creation of Fibonacci puzzles.

Families were encouraged to talk about the maths they do during play, in the home and at work– from putting away toys to parking a car to playing sports – to understand they are already maths doers! Rather than making the activities into a competition and perpetuating the “right and wrong” that is so often associated with maths, the team took time to look at and celebrate all of the work created, asking the families to explain why they had used certain shapes or placed them in a certain way.

In an activity called “what colour is maths?”, the team aimed to spark discussion around maths in a non-intimidating way by considering the colour families felt represented math. The team found that with some simple instructions, many participants were practising maths without realising it. At the end of each workshop, families were given resources to take away to encourage them to continue their learning at home.

Maths for all

The workshops were co-designed with families and their Community Advisory Group, which helped to bring the voice of local people into the heart of the decision-making. Families from the NSPCC and Children 1st were invited to the events. Funding from Maths Week Scotland enabled families to access the events free of charge, along with transport and lunch.

By removing barriers to STEM, the team were able to engage more families than ever and support them to continue learning at home.



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The takeaway for families

The workshops received overwhelmingly positive feedback from families and as a result, the centre will continue to target those families who face barriers to accessing STEM learning, providing free opportunities to those who need it most.

The partnership with the Community Learning Development team has strengthened and the team is now better at identifying the maths in science centre activities. The centre will continue to increase the confidence of families by helping them discover the beauty of maths.