

Org-Type Non-Profit-based

Lead Exploratorium PoC N/A

PoC-Phone 415-561-0360 PoC-Email N/A

Address 3601 Lyon Street San Francisco, CA 94123

URL

Service-Region Bay Area

Type Student Program

Subjects General Science

Level Elementary School (K-5th grade)|Middle School (5-8th grade)|High School (9-12th grade)

Other-Objectives

Served-per-Year [Demographics](#)

**Content**

The Children's Educational Outreach Program is a major link between the Exploratorium and community-based organizations in San Francisco and Oakland which serve inner city children, teens, and their families. The Outreach Program offers Exploratorium exhibit-based educational activities via ongoing partnerships with these organizations. We go out to the neighborhoods on a regular basis as well as inviting participants to the Exploratorium for special field trips and, in some cases, extended study. Staffing for Children's Educational Outreach consists of a program director, a project manager, a lead teacher, and on-call staff from the High School Explainer Program. In our workshops and activities, we use a variety of hands-on materials as well as Exploratorium Lending Library exhibits and kits, Exploratorium Snackbook\* exhibits, and our own modified, portable versions of exhibits. In the last few years, emphasis has been on children constructing larger, more complex projects. Children are trained to use hand tools and simple machinery, and learn how to wire circuits. They build zoetropes, wind chimes, spectroscopes, kaleidoscopes, toy cars, mechanical insects, robot arms, kites, membranophones, and much more. Art is also integral to most of the science we do. Viewing phenomena from an artist's perspective, or simply incorporating an artistic element into our projects, makes science more personal and relevant for a young person. Another important component of Children's Educational Outreach is the young, ethnically and culturally diverse staff. We have found that role modeling is extremely effective in reaching youngsters who have been underrepresented in the fields of science and math. All of these workshops and services are provided free of charge.

**Outcomes**

To promote the growth of inner city kids in developing an interest in science and math.

**Started**

[Funded-Through](#)

**Length**

[Cost](#)

**Primary-Funding**

[Primary-\\$](#)

**Materials**

**Other-Funding**

**How-Assessed**

**Best-Practice-Why**

The program has been going on since 1984 and involves several organizations around the Bay Area and all the workshops and services are provided free of charge. It allows inner city children to get more exposure to the more unconventional side of science and thus maybe acquire enthusiasm about the subject itself.

**Promising-Practice**

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**Other-Orgs**