

Notes to the Future: Science is Fun!  
By: Maigrie and Gina, 2014-2015

Dear future Science is Fun exhibitors,

Science is Fun is a fairly simple exhibit. This exhibit is extremely popular with kids so make sure that you are enthusiastic, cheerful, and inviting to the classes that come because some of the students are shy. If you see a student looking at your exhibit from afar, be proactive in asking them if they want to make a talkie tape contraption. Here are some things you should know to make your process run more smoothly.

During the preparation for Exploratorio, make sure that you talk to Mr. Baird as early as possible to discuss buying the sets of talkie tapes and the amount of sets you'll have to buy. Don't procrastinate in buying the talkie tapes from Arbor Scientific as well because shipping will take time. Additionally, when prepping the cups (poking holes and placing Rio stickers on the cups), make sure that the holes are just big enough to push through a talkie tape otherwise when the students tie the tape, the hole will be too large and the knot will slip through.

Throughout Exploratorio, make sure that the kids are actively participating in the activity. You may need to offer help for knot tying, but many elementary students are able to do it themselves. Make sure that you do not make it for them, they make it while you explain how to create it talk about the underlying physics principles. You may want to keep a talkie tape for yourself for demonstration as you go through the motions of making one, but don't actually make one. Make sure you also clean throughout the day as the exhibit can get messy and spread out.

For the Open House Exploratorio portion, make sure that you have a couple sets for demonstration because parents are not as interested in making them and taking them home. Try to have at least one demo made with a big cup, it amplifies the sound more and makes it easier to hear so if it is especially noisy, students, teachers, and parents can still hear the message through the large cup.

To improve the exhibit, you can bring in a music box to help further elaborate on the principles of sound and amplification. If the inside is too crowded, you may also want to pick a place outside of the room because it gets really loud and it is hard to explain over the noise. And if you are able to, you can play the Honda Civic Musical Road Youtube video and compare it to the talkie tapes.

Last but not least, have fun! Make time to see the other exhibits and enjoy your day!

Sincerely,  
Your 2014-2015 exhibitors - Maigrie McDougal and Gina Wu