



Science

"I hate science" is a common statement made by children in Central Indiana. Yet surveys indicate that these same children want to experiment. In fact, they complain about not being given the opportunity to do the numerous experiments in their science books. In addition, these children are under the impression that science careers are limited to people in white coats, such as doctors, nurses, and laboratory researchers.

Today, informal learning environments, as endorsed by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), hold some promise of helping children see the broader picture of science in their lives, futures, and careers. An NSTA position statement concerning informal science education says, "a growing body of research documents the power of informal learning experiences to spark curiosity and engage interest in the sciences during the school years and throughout a lifetime."

The Children's Museum helps to provide such experiences through numerous science initiatives. Visitors to *ScienceWorks* in the Dow Science Center learn about animals, geology, water tables, and many other aspects of science. Classes and camps on scientific topics and careers are also conducted in this gallery.



The challenge is to break through this barrier and help children understand that science is for everyone because science is a part of everyday life. Further, children need to be introduced to the many scientific fields that are available.