

Connecting Learning and Fun

Find out how your child can meet the learning goals set in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Standards at:

AUSTIN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Want To be Amazed?

Science is a source of wonder, excitement, and fascination for all children.

Exploring, experimenting, and thinking about the world around them gives them skills that last a lifetime.

Best of all, science is all around your family at home, in the community, and at school.

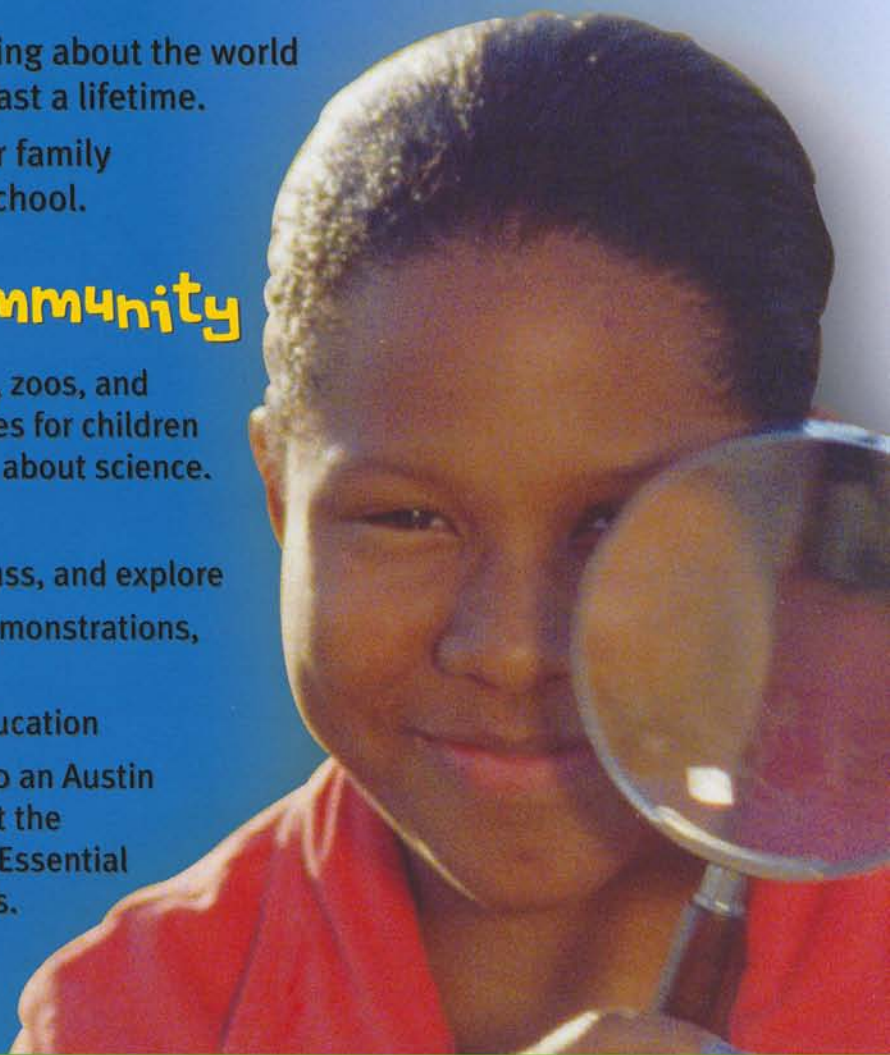
Science in your community

Science and technology centers, parks, zoos, and museums are unique and exciting places for children to learn and develop positive attitudes about science.

They offer:

- Opportunities to ask questions, discuss, and explore
- Neat exhibits, hands-on activities, demonstrations, workshops, and films
- Learning that supports classroom education

Find out some of the ways that a visit to an Austin science center can help your child meet the science learning goals set in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Standards.



A project of the Partnership for Science Literacy, an initiative of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with funding from the National Science Foundation, to promote K-12 science literacy for everyone.

Visit us at: www.ScienceEverywhere.org



AUSTIN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Visiting the Austin Children's Museum is a great way to supplement a child's science education. Through its exhibits and extensive menu of educational programming, the Museum reinforces the Science TEKS for grades pre-K through 4.

Here are some examples.

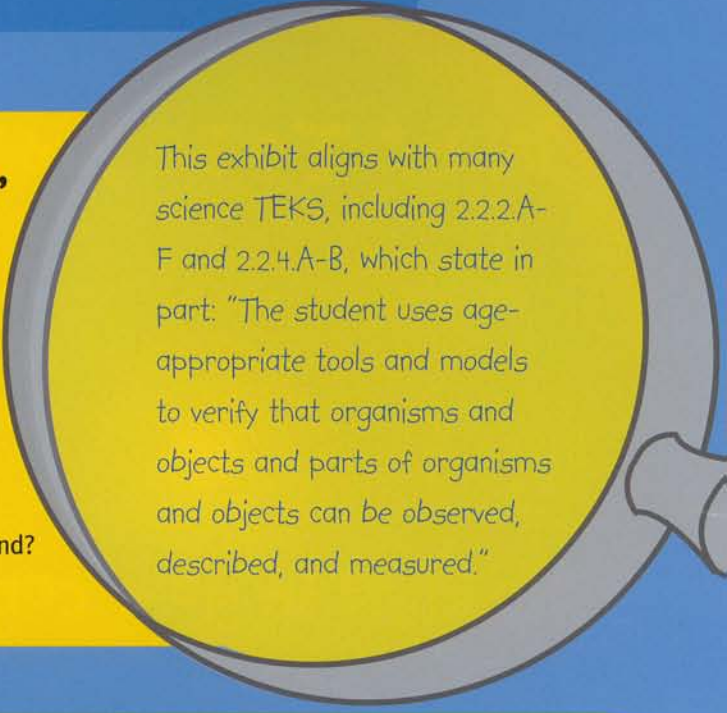
Phone: (512) 472-2499 Online: www.austinkids.org

EXHIBITS SUCH AS "EXPLORATION STATION"

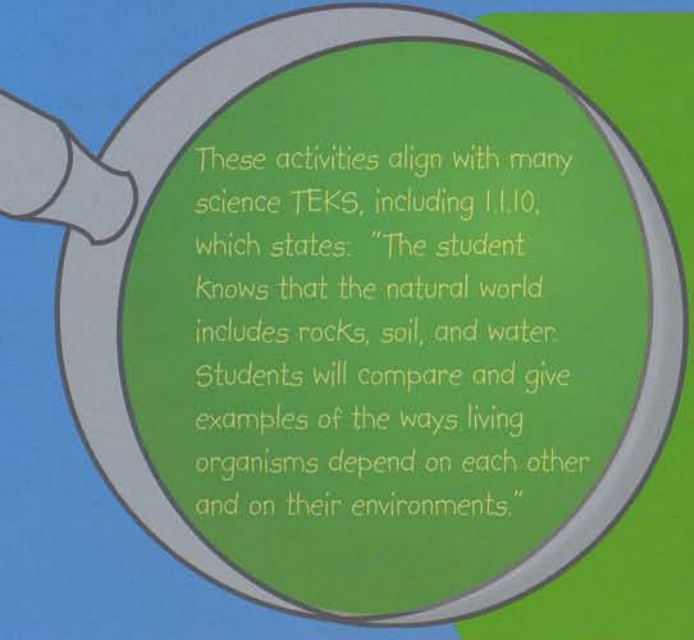
Exploration Station is a semi-permanent gallery targeted for ages 5 and up. Visitors participate in facilitated, hands-on activities with themes that emphasize science inquiry processes, problem solving, or creative thinking.

Questions you can ask your child include:

- What things stick to the magnet board and what things do not? Why or why not?
- How many shapes can you make on the peg board with the rubber band?
- What might a shell look like under a magnifying glass?



This exhibit aligns with many science TEKS, including 2.2.2.A-F and 2.2.4.A-B, which state in part: "The student uses age-appropriate tools and models to verify that organisms and objects and parts of organisms and objects can be observed, described, and measured."



These activities align with many science TEKS, including 1.1.10, which states: "The student knows that the natural world includes rocks, soil, and water. Students will compare and give examples of the ways living organisms depend on each other and on their environments."

EXHIBITS SUCH AS "JAPAN AND NATURE" – FALL 2005

Japan and Nature: Spirits of the Seasons invites children ages 5-12 to discover and explore how their counterparts in Japan celebrate and experience their natural environment. Organized around universal aspects of childhood – family, school, play, and holiday celebrations – the exhibit encourages investigations from a child's perspective of how people living in Japan today understand nature through special seasonal and everyday environments and activities.

Questions you can ask your child include:

- Can you make a collage with the leaf and acorn magnets on the board?
 - What special "winter foods" do they eat in Japan? Why do they only eat these in winter?
- What seasonal things would you display in a "tokonma," a special nook where families create seasonal arrangements?

About the TEKS Standards: The TEKS are the State of Texas curriculum standards for children in grades K through 12. Educators use these standards as guidelines in forming their curriculum goals and lesson plans.

FIND OUT MORE about the TEKS Standards at: www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter112/index.html

Talk to your children's science teachers. See the "10 Questions to Ask Your Child's School" at: www.ScienceEverywhere.org