

CASE STUDY: WRITING and EDITING

Museum of Science & Industry – Team member, write interpretive copy for exhibits and graphics for Kids In Charge, Children's Science Center
Editor, Kids In Charge Science To Go Activity/Comic Book

About the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI)

Founded in 1962, MOSI is a not-for-profit museum committed to making a difference in people's lives by making science real for people of ages. The 74-acre campus includes BioWorks Butterfly Garden, Kids In Charge! The Children's Science Center at MOSI (KIC), The Saunders Planetarium, Challenger Learning Center and the Backwoods Nature Trail.

Problem

Most exhibits at MOSI appealed to visitors age 12 and above. No organization in north Tampa provided a multisensory museum experience for preschool and elementary age children.

Solution

To appeal to a younger audience, KIC was designed, developed and built to a 40,000 square footprint. Exhibits encourage visitors to create, activate and investigate and included a Fields to Meals area for preschool children. KIC included 80 new exhibits in 25,000 square feet, a traveling exhibition space, two classrooms, two themed birthday party rooms, bathrooms, office and storage space.

Terrie Nolinke, Ph.D. worked with teams to design/develop each exhibit and to write copy for exhibit signage and graphics. She led a team of educators to create related floor activities and educational programming. She also edited the Science To Go Activity and Comic book, based on 20 KIC exhibits, complementing each comic with two science activities.

Responsibilities included the following:

- Identify best practices for children's science exhibits
- Write copy that included exhibit instructions, messages and related signage
- Work with team to develop InterActor floor activities and related educational programming
- Work with internal team on operational logistics; select fabric/colors for office furniture
- Lead team to write 40 science activities for Science To Go Activity and Comic Book
- Edit Science To Go Activity and Comic Book

Results

KIC has been a resounding success, opening its doors to a new audience at MOSI and offering opportunities for new community partnerships. Children of all ages have reported using the Science To Go Activity and Comic Book at home with their families and at school, as the basis for science fair projects.