

The future in our hands: children under the age of 3 developing scientific thought and treasuring nature through museum's experiences

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This presentation argues that it is important that children develop their scientific skills and scientific thought since early ages. It is also relevant to connect them with nature developing positive attitudes and values towards the environment. In this sense, museums that create educational activities for children under the age of three use different strategies and methodologies to approach natural sciences to preschoolers. Based on interviews and direct field work in Catalan museums, results show that is possible to engage children with scientific thought and nature through experimentation inside the museum, natural itineraries outdoors and transporting the museum to the school. All the experiences that children have during their first three years of life impact on their knowledge, skills and values. This presentation shows that there is potential to increase the number of museums that offer these experiences to connect children with natural sciences.

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