

Why offer this type of programming?

Getting families engaged in their children's learning has been shown to have a positive impact on school readiness. Below are resources to help you plan and implement this important type of programming.

Workshop Goals

To introduce Head Start parents to science process skills so they understand that science isn't complicated and that it's actually all around them. Once they understand what science looks like they will be able to recognize when their children are doing science and incorporate science into more activities.

Workshop Details

- The Sciencenter hosts nine 1.5 hour workshops each year. These workshops are geared for both adults and children and usually have around 100 attendees.
- Each workshop has four special activities prepared with Head Start teachers stationed at each station to teach parents the activities.
- Workshops are held on-site at the museum after it's closed and are staffed by two to three educators.
- Transportation is offered through Tompkins Community Action(TCA), the organization that runs the Tompkins County Head Start.
- A hot dinner is provided at TCA's expense.

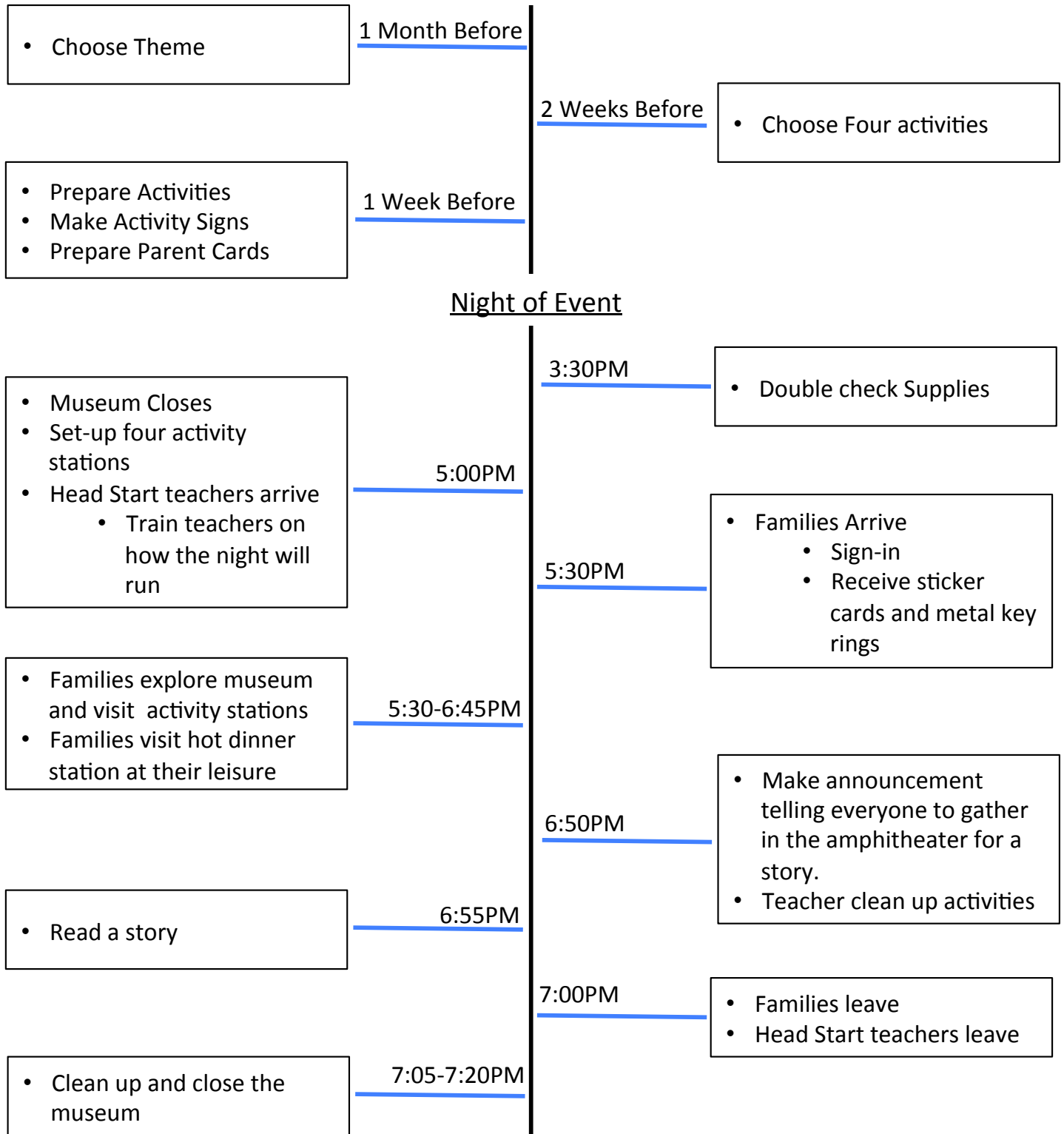
Resources Included...

- **Schedule of Events** (Page 3)
 - Learn how the Sciencenter prepares for, and implements their Family Engagement Workshops.
- **Activity Guides** (Page 4)
 - The activity guides are given to the Head Star teachers at the start of each workshop so they know what to teach the parents.

- Each activity guide contains a materials list, instructions, a list of science process skills they will be using, and prompts to help the parents engage with their children.
- **Activity Signs** (Page 5)
 - Activity signs are posted at each activity station so parents know what the activity is, what process skill they are practicing, and what questions they can ask to engage their children.
- **Process Skills Scavenger Hunt** (Page 6)
 - When families arrive at the museum parents are given a sticker card to take around to all the activities. When the children finish the activity they get a sticker to add to their card. The cards lists a variety of process skills and the children are encouraged to place their sticker next to the process skill that activity focused on.
- **Parent Cards** (Page 7)
 - When parents sign-in they are given a metal key ring for the parent cards passed out at each activity station. The parent cards are two-sided cards that review the activity from the family workshop on one side, and have an activity they can try at home on the other side. These are another tool to help parents understand that science can be simple and easily done outside the classroom.



Schedule of Events





Example Activity Guide

Families will practice predicting what objects sink and what objects float!

Materials

- Objects from Nature
- Large clear bins of water
- Prediction/Observation chart
- Towels
- Question Cards



Try This!

Provide families with a bowl of objects that they can drop into the bins of water.

Science Process Skills

- Predictions
- Observations
- Communication

Interacting with families

Observe families interacting during this activity. If you see children practicing any of the process skills, point it out to their parents.

Things you can say:

- By doing _____ your child is doing science!
 - For example: If a child says, "I bet the pumpkin will sink!" you can tell the parent "By making that prediction, your child is doing science"
- "Scientists make predictions like you all the time!"

While families are exploring you can model open-ended questions for parents by asking:

- Which items do you think will sink?
- Which ones will float?
- What is the same about the items? What is different?



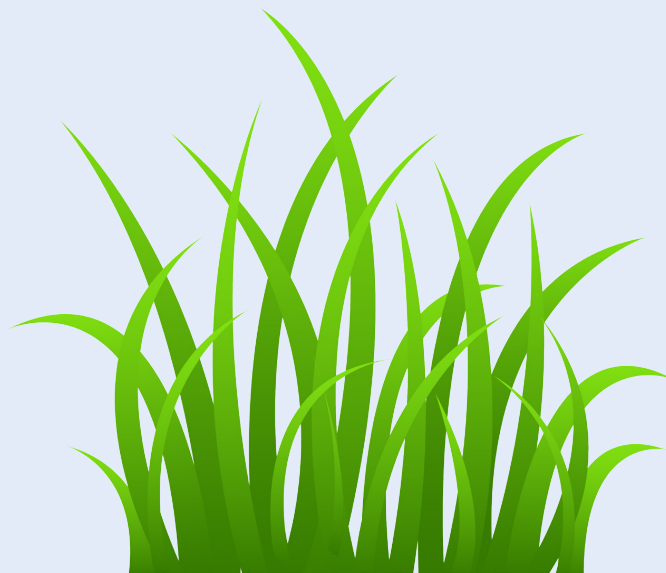
Example Activity Sign



Measuring Activity: Grass Seed Hair Cups

How tall will the grass grow?

What does the soil feel like?







Process Skill Scavenger Hunt


Front Side (with stickers)

**Science skills you can use
during the activities!**


Observe 

 **Predict**


Categorize

Problem Solve 

Explore

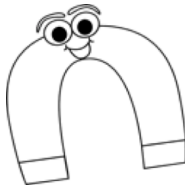
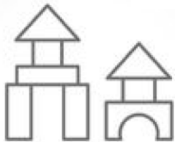

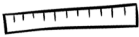
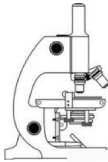
 **Using tools**

Measure



Back Side

Try the fun science activities around the
Sciencenter!




The fun continues when you explore
with your friends and family at
home!



Example Parent Cards

Front Side

 **Science from the Start** 

Predictions
Sink or Float

In this activity you are predicting which items will sink or float before placing them into water.

Making predictions is a great way for children to explore the world around them.

Back Side



TRY IT AT HOME!

You can try sink or float at home! Next time your child is getting ready for a bath, collect items that you are ok with getting wet, and turn bath time into a science experiment.

What did you discover?

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Front Side

 **Science from the Start** 

Observations
Leaf Prints

We are using leaves and paint to make prints and patterns.

What types of patterns and shapes do you notice? These types of observations are important for math and science!

Back Side

TRY IT AT HOME!

Play I Spy and point out items around the room that have different shapes.

For example, "I spy something that is a rectangle." You could be looking at a window or a cereal box.

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Credits and rights

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