

PLAYFUL LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

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Thank you and wrap up

Lindsay

WHY PLAYFUL LEARNING AT UW?

Accessible

Affordable and convenient!

Fun

Lots to interact and play with!

Educational

Learn about science through play!

New Experiences

Go on an adventure!
See and learn new things!

Language Enriching

Discover new words while learning and playing!

Lindsay



Lauryn

Alright, so we're going to start by talking about some areas of campus that we think are well-suited for 1 to 3-year-olds. As we all know, geese love to roam the outdoor spaces on campus, so our goose friend here is going to guide us through this section.

PETER RUSSELL ROCK GARDEN



Lauryn

The first location that we suggest visiting with one to three-year-olds is the Peter Russell Rock Garden. Reaching the rock garden is a super accessible trip, and the space itself is mostly flat, although on a slight slope, and has a lot of seating available. It's located right in the middle of campus making it a safe distance from roads and is nearby to lots of on-campus amenities like washrooms and food (which can be found at the Student Life Center).

PETER RUSSELL ROCK GARDEN

- Rocks of many shapes and sizes
- Variety of greenery
- Unique water fountain



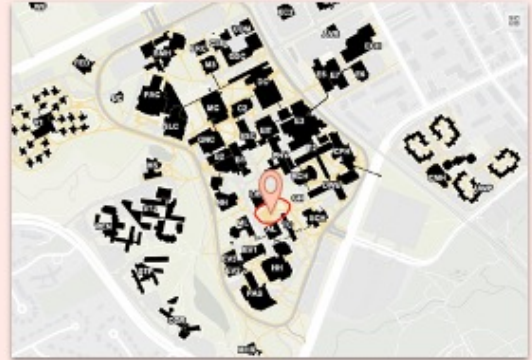
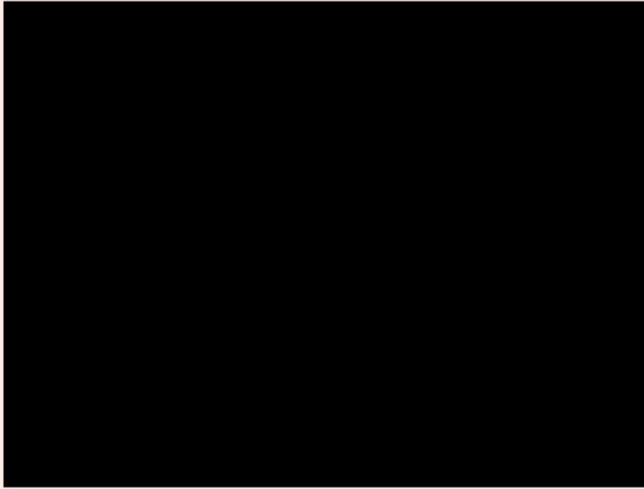
Hmm... what does this look like to you? An egg maybe?



Lauryn

The rock garden features the rocks – of course – that are very low to the ground and come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colours. They're safe and easy for young toddlers to explore, and they also provide the added bonus of being somewhat interesting for the parents & caregivers – each rock has a small plaque on it with some interesting information about its origins, age, et cetera. Additionally, there are a lot of different types of greenery in the area that changes with the seasons, as well as the infamous water fountain. This seems to be a point of contention even among the university students, so we thought it would be a fun conversation starter for caregivers and their toddlers. The overall goal with this space is to expose young children to some potentially new things without being too outside the box, and encourage their natural tendencies for exploration and curiosity.

THE ARTS QUAD



Neha

The Arts Quad is a large area on campus, away from vehicles making it extremely safe for children. It consists of a family friendly picnic area and low chairs- making it perfect for toddlers. There are bike racks available, and just inside the DP library there is a cafe- excellent to grab a quick bite! A ramp is also present, making access extremely accessible.

FUN ACTIVITIES



This ramp is perfect for a bike!



Let's make a path using these!



Neha

The Arts Quad is large and colourful, providing an amazing opportunity to explore and expand on language skills. With the various colours on the ground and the different buildings nearby, a game of ISPY is fun and engaging for toddlers. Using creativity and imagination with regards to the patterns on the ground is very beneficial here. Can you count the circles? How many are there? As this is an outside area and University of Waterloo is known for geese- how many geese do you see?

FUN ACTIVITIES



ISPY the colour...
yellow!



Can you count the
circles? How many
geese do you see?



Neha

These unique patterns are also excellent for a fun motor game. Motor activities in turn benefit language development. Using the patterns, can you make a path? What about a fun obstacle? The ramp in this area is perfect for a bike- or even a race with parents or siblings. The free space is ideal for running around, so might as well use it!

ST. JEROME'S COURTYARD

- Lots to explore!
- Variety of greenery
- Safe area to roam



Brianna

Tucked in amongst the St Jeromes University campus is this charming courtyard. In this area there's a lot to explore such as different textures of grass and other natural elements. This is a safe area for a young child to roam and explore independently.

EXPLORATORY AREA

- Beanbag toss



- Greenery area



Brianna

Also in this area is the bean bag toss which young children may find exciting and new, there are many ways to interact with the bean bag toss. Apart from its original purpose, children may enjoy interacting with the bean bags and throwing them around.

COLOURING SHEETS



Take them on your Journey!
Can you spot some of these creatures outside?



Brianna

While journeying through campus, bring along some colouring sheets! Feel free to do them later at home, or find a nice picnic bench and colour! Can you spot some of these creatures while outside?



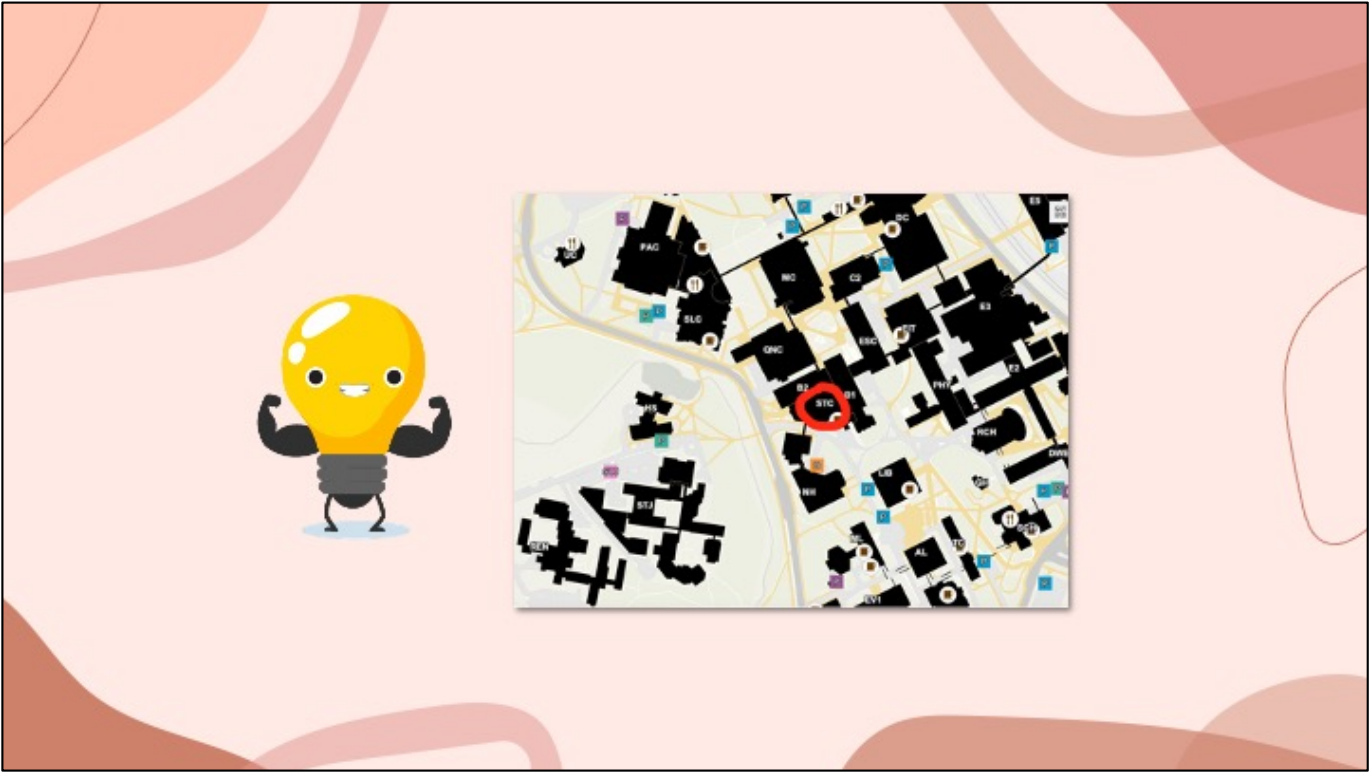
02

Ages 3-7

Activities in the Science Teaching Complex

Brianna

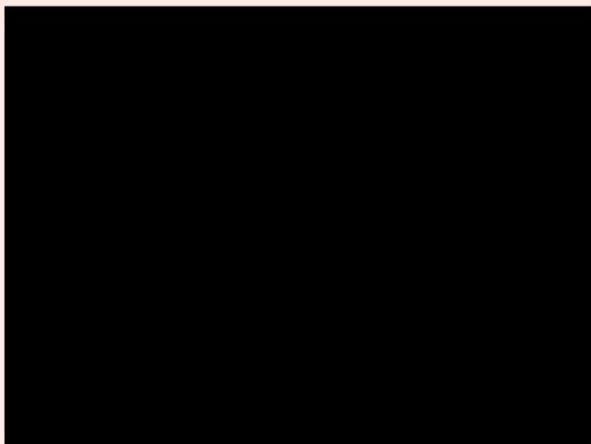
For children ages 3-7, we chose the lower floor of the Science Teaching Complex. This place provides an amazing opportunity for language development; as it is rich in science based concepts which promotes questions and explanations.



Brianna

Our Lightbulb Mascot is not only science based, but also a symbol of knowledge. We hope the children learn new concepts while exploring this place!

THE TIMELINE OF THE ELEMENTS



Neha

The STC has a large display of the timeline of the chemical elements, with various pictures. This provides an opportunity for exploration and enhancing language.

MADLIBS

Ages 3-5



Can you complete the story?

- Fill in the blanks to help our lightbulb friend!
- Use the timeline of the elements on the wall to fill in the blanks

Oh no!

Our friend the Lightbulb has lost their light! Can you find the culprit?

Use the pictures on wall displaying the timeline of the elements for hints!



One day, _____ (name) the Lightbulb was watching _____ (thing), while eating _____ (thing). They got thirsty, so they decided to combine some oxygen and _____ (HINT: find the picture of the car) to make some water. While looking for the ingredients, they encountered a/an _____, (living thing) who stole their powers! Their light was gone. They were very _____ (emotion). You can help get _____'s (same name) light back by exploring each of the activities!

Neha

Using the images on the wall, children can complete the MadLibs we created. Starting off, children can name our Lightbulb friend. This makes them in control of the activity, making it more personal. They can then read the story, and try to find pictures on the wall that will make sense with the sentence. There are no right or wrong answers, as the key here is to be as creative as possible! The story even encourages them to engage in all the activities in the STC as it will help our friend get their powers back.

MADLIBS

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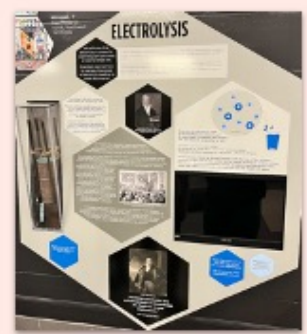
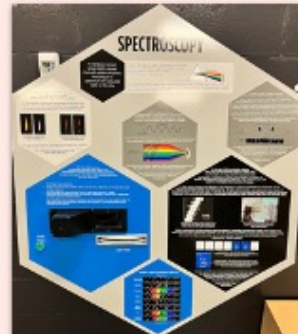


Neha

Here are some examples of the images children can use to complete the story. There's a dinosaur, bike, TV, and croissant.

Hands-On Displays

Ages 5-7



Can you feel the different types of rocks? Where do you see these elements on the wall?



Look through the spectrometer! What do you see? Can you find these elements on the wall?

Neha

Along the element wall are 4 displays that are hands-on and interacting. There is so much information provided; children are able to ask questions and engage. For example, one of the displays includes 3 different rocks made from copper, iron, and silver. Children can touch the rocks and feel the texture; it can promote questions. Can they find these elements on the wall? Another display includes looking through a spectrometer. What do you see when you look in and turn the dial? Refer to the display to get a better understanding. Can you find these elements on the wall?

COLOUR LIGHTS MIXING TABLE

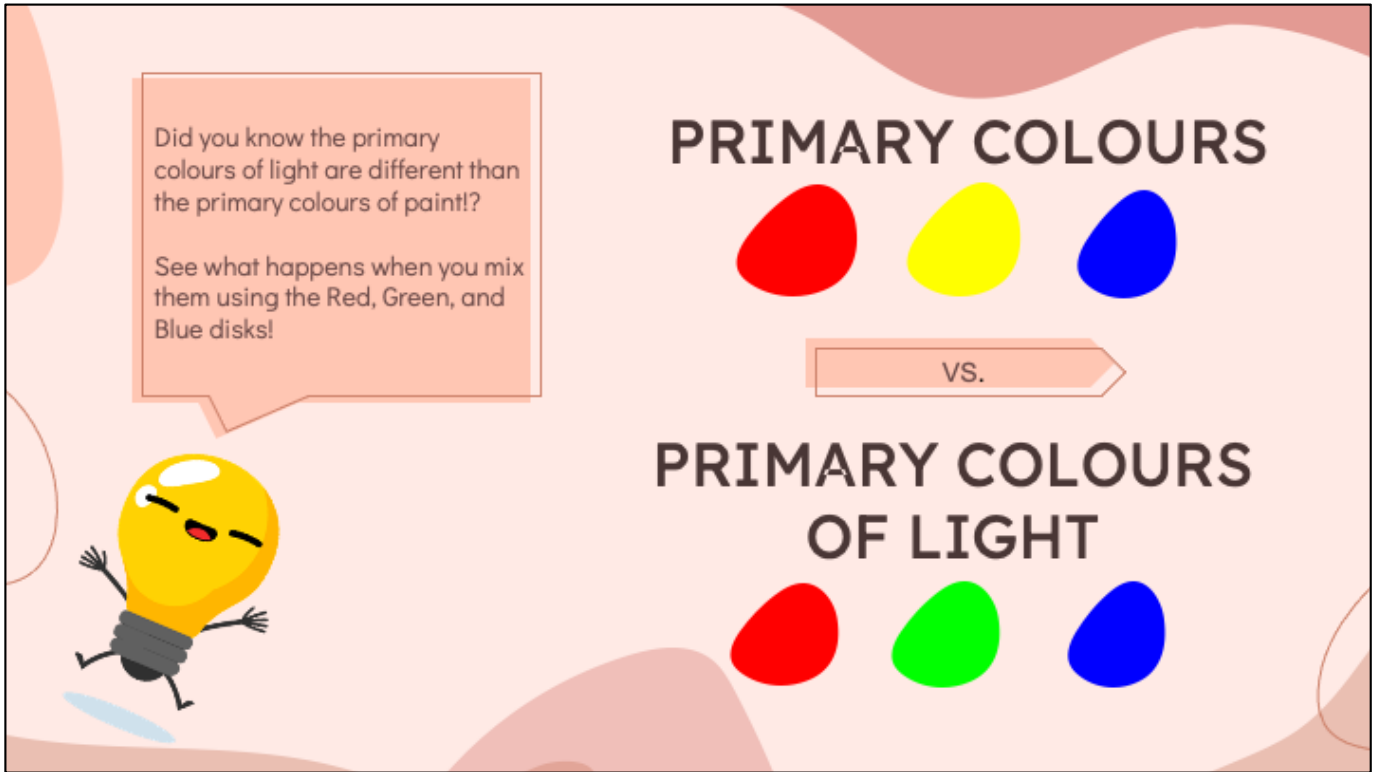


Note: Turn the Red, Blue, and Green disks, to project and mix different colours on the wall



Lindsay

While on your journey throughout campus, check out the colour lights mixing table in the STC. Simply turn the red, green, and blue turntables, in order to make different colours on the palette on the wall.



Lindsay

Did you know that primary colours of paint are different from the primary colors of light? This station is a great opportunity to experiment, play with colour, and learn a bit of science behind color. This is awesome for children in their language learning, as they will learn new words to expand their vocabulary, have opportunities to ask lots of questions, and make for novel conversations.

COLOUR LIGHTS MIXING TABLE: FILL IN THE BLANK

When you mix Red and Green light, you get _____

When you mix _____ and blue light, you get a pink colour

When you mix all colours of light together (Green, blue, red), you get a _____ colour



Help me Find the answers! Play with the red, green, and blue turntables, TO HELP!



Lindsay

While at the coloured lights station, feel free to engage in a more structured activity. Help our lightbulb friend uncover more knowledge by filling in the blanks! Use the turntables to help you uncover the answers!

INFINITY MIRROR

- NOTE: the switch to turn the lights on is on the side of the platform

Woah... this sort of looks like a tunnel! Or... a portal! Will you stand on it with me? I'm too nervous to try it alone...



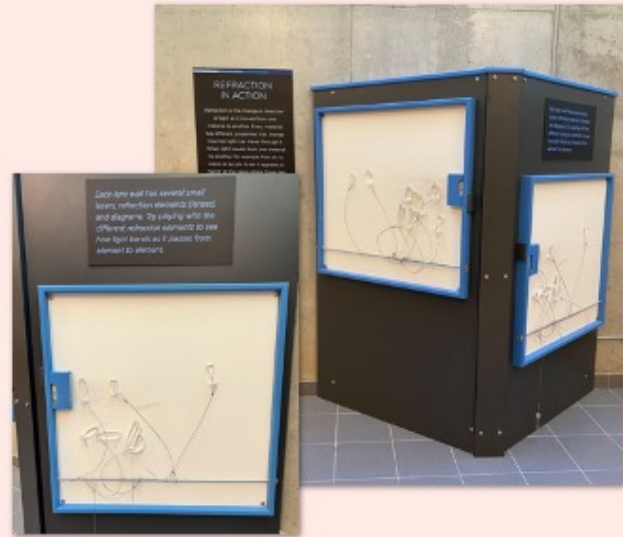
Lauryn

Next up in the STC, we have the infinity mirror. When you turn it on and stand on the platform looking down, it creates the illusion of a tunnel that appears to go on forever. Although it seems simple at first glance, the infinity mirror is super fun and interesting for kids anywhere in the 3-7 age group. If they're interested, trying to explain (and help them grasp) the concept of infinity can be quite a challenge. The mirror is also a bit nerve-wracking to stand on, so it can lead to some interesting conversation in that regard, especially if there are a few kids checking it out together.

LIGHT REFRACTING STATION

DID YOU KNOW:

Concave (I-shaped) and convex (O-shaped) lenses make light either bend inwards or outwards! This is how seeing eye glasses work. Do you wear glasses? Do you know someone who does?



Lauryn

We also have another activity here for the older kids specifically. It's an interactive light refracting station where you can use concave and convex lenses to redirect a laser. On the slide, the lightbulb is giving the kids a bit of information about how these work and how the physics relate to everyday life. This activity provides kids with a hands-on opportunity to start learning about science and the related vocabulary, as well as reinforce some of the things they are potentially starting to talk about (or will eventually be talking about) at school.

THE SPEED OF LIGHT

- Race the speed of light!
- Can you run like a racecar?
- What about a plane?
- Or Superman?



Brianna

In the far corner of the STC basement is the speed of light race. Children can interact with this activity independently by pressing the button on the left side and racing to the other side where a sensor will automatically track their time. The younger kids may enjoy imitating things listed on the wall or coming up with a story or what they are doing.

THE SPEED OF LIGHT

- Fun, interactive race!
- How much faster are you than a racecar or a cheetah?



The cheetah is the fastest land animal, it can run up to 113 km/h, how fast can you go?



Brianna

This race is a fun challenge for kids of all ages. This activity has math learning built in as the time is displayed in comparison to the speed of light. How fast can you run? Can you run faster than a racecar or a cheetah? Can you beat your best time?

THANK YOU

Playful learning is possible at Uwaterloo!

Make sure to stop by the Arts Quad, the Peter Russell Rock Garden, St. Jerome's and the STC!

These areas have the potential for children's language learning, fun, new and accessible experiences.



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Lindsay

We hope that you enjoyed the presentation. We would like to emphasize that playful learning is important to children's growth and development, plus it is fun. Playful learning is possible at the University of Waterloo, since there are lots for children to engage with, which will help them expand their vocabularies, and encourage their language development. All the areas we have discussed today are accessible, and child friendly. We hope you take our ideas into consideration. Thank you for listening.