

Questacon Science Play

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Questacon Science Play is Australia's first program to reach out to regional, rural and remote communities with hands-on activities, portable exhibits, presentations and follow-up resources for early childhood science discovery.

Science Play introduces many elements of science, literacy and numeracy appropriate for 2–5 year-olds. It aims to engage both young children and their carers in science discovery and has the potential to unearth Australia's future scientists.

Funded by the Australian Government, the *Science Play* program recognises the value of informal education in early childhood learning. Just as parents, carers and educators introduce children to reading and maths, *Science Play* encourages them to play an equally fundamental role in the teaching of science.

Research shows that positive early childhood experiences are vitally important for a child's physical, emotional and intellectual growth as 75% of brain development occurs during the first five years of life. *Science Play* aims to instil a love of learning from a very early age.

Developed by Questacon, in consultation with early childhood experts, *Science Play* is presented by a lively team of trained science presenters from Questacon.

The *Science Play* follow-up resources include a take-home play-based science activities booklet for early learners and a corresponding website scienceplay.questacon.edu.au. The purpose of the supporting materials is to help parents, carers and educators to share in the fun and fascination of the world of science.

In 2007-08 more than 7,000 children participated in *Questacon Science Play*

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