

**APRIL 2022** 





### ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

# EVENT REPORT sociable science

TechFest aims to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to pupils and the wider community throughout Scotland.

We fulfil this aim by:

- developing, organising, and delivering a range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities and events
- inspiring, informing and enthusing young people to have an interest in STEM
- raising awareness of the application and relevance of STEM subjects
- publicising STEM opportunities
- working in partnership with schools, FE colleges, HE establishments, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Enrichment & Engagement (STEM E&E) providers, industry, business, government both local and national.

TechFest vision, mission and values all reflect its commitment and understanding, borne from knowledge and experience, of what is required to be successful designing developing and delivering schools engagement projects.

TechFest has an enviable record of engagement with schools in the North-East and throughout Scotland. This is reflected in our level of activity, reputation and knowledge of the education community in each of the 32 Local Authority areas.

TechFest is an innovative charity which consistently provides quality STEM events and with over 20 years' experience in promoting STEM subjects this enables us to identify effective activities and measure impact.







SOCIAL MEDI

FEEDBACK

The programme was advertised directly online through Aberdeen City Council and via TechFest's social media platforms.

TechFest received a number of highly positive feedback comments from the children and parents who attended across the 5 sessions.

# Techfest



### EASTER OF PLAY WITH ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL



In February 2022 we were approached by Aberdeen City Council to take part in their Easter of Play scheme which offers bookable activity sessions throughout the school Easter holidays.

The aim of Sociable Science is to engage all ages in science activities that are done in conversation utilising teamwork, creativity and most of all fun while learning. Each activity would be designed to be repeated at home with our audiences being encouraged to share what they have learnt with others. TechFest developed the programme of events called **Sociable Science** specifically following the feedback received from families and in discussion with Eleanor Sheppard.

We took the Programme out to 5 locations across Aberdeen City, these were chosen by the City Council as being in areas which would most benefit from the play scheme.

5 Dates	5 Venues	Attendees (estimated numbers)
Monday 11.04.22	Seaton Park	75
Tuesday 12.04.22	Duthie Park	95
Wednesday 13.04.22	Victoria Park	25
Thursday 14.04.22	Hazelhead Park	120
Friday 15.04.22	Seaton Park	60
Total		375 (adults and children)

Everyone who attended enjoyed the sessions. We were able to promote on our social media the day before or on the day, which helped especially when we had to alter the timings slightly due to the weather. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't as good as we had hoped for at this time of year and this may have impacted the attendee numbers as it was very cold and windy. We managed to get out to the parks everyday even if we cut short the times slightly, the only day we had to drastically alter the times was Wednesday when we went to Victoria Park as it was too wet in the morning so we went for the afternoon only.

### ТеснҒеэт

#### The activities

We aimed to create a diverse and interesting programme of activities which could be replicated at home, these also linked to the CREST Award Scheme run by the British Science Association and attendees were given information on how to complete and apply for one of the awards. As it was Spring Time, with better weather coming and Covid restrictions lifting, we decided on a Smiles theme for some of the activities. These were very well received with children enjoying making smiley face masks, cress seed smiles and wildflower seed balls. We also took the activities from last summer with us again to give a wide range of options for attendees to enjoy.

#### Feedback

Although we didn't ask for formal feedback from participants, everyone who attended enjoyed the sessions and delighted in getting hands-on with our smile activities.

#### Promotion

We promoted the events on social media each day and had some coverage in the press.



Aberdeen parks to host TechFest's Sociable Science events this Easter



BUDDING young scientists are being encouraged to visit their local parks across Aberdeen next week (April 11-15), when TechFest will be delivering its Sociable Science events.

The programme will offer 5 to 11-year-olds the chance to learn new skills and take part in a range of activities, including a rocket balloon experiment, making rainbow rain and a mini-beast hunt.

The TechFest team will be at Seaton Park (Monday, April 11 and Friday, April 15), Duthie Park (Tuesday, April 12), Victoria Park (Wednesday, April 13) and Hazlahead Park (Thursday, April 14) from 10am to 3pm, with participants able to drop into sessions free of charge.

The programme is designed to show how science is involved in our everyday lives and includes activities which can be easily replicated at home with family and friends.

The sessions are being run in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council's Easter of Play scheme.

Managing director of TechFest, Sarah Chew said: "We launched our Sociable Science events during summer last year and had a huge response with more than 500 people from across the North-east engaging in the programme.

This Easter, we are back with more activities and fun experiments for young people to take part in, offering something fun to do over the spring break while also providing learning opportunities.

"The programme encourages young people to use teamwork and creativity and highlights how Science. Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) play a role in everything we do. We look forward to meeting lots of participants at parks across Aberdeen next week."

TechFest develops programmes which link in with the CREST Award Scheme. run by the British Science Association. By taking part in Sociable Science, participants have completed several of the eight activities required to be awarded a CREST SuperStar certificate and iron-on badge.

The remaining-activities can be completed by working through their TechFest booklet which is available alongside all the other resources on the TechFest website.

Attendees can apply for their CREST Star award by visiting https://apply.crestawards.org/

Alongside a year-round programme of STEM education events, TechFest runs Aberdeen and North-east Scotland's annual festival of STEM.

For more information on TechFest's work, visit www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk



rid the string to the other che

Put to

a and balloon is one and of the string and stick your secret message onto the

@TechFest 2021



Making a Windflower Seed Ball

In this activity we'll get creative with nature and make wildflower seed balls to scatter in the garden. Eutakteferpmery

> What will you need Flour Soil Mixing bowl Wat Native British within

> > CTechFest 2022

TECHFEST

add water and m

s to dry for a day or



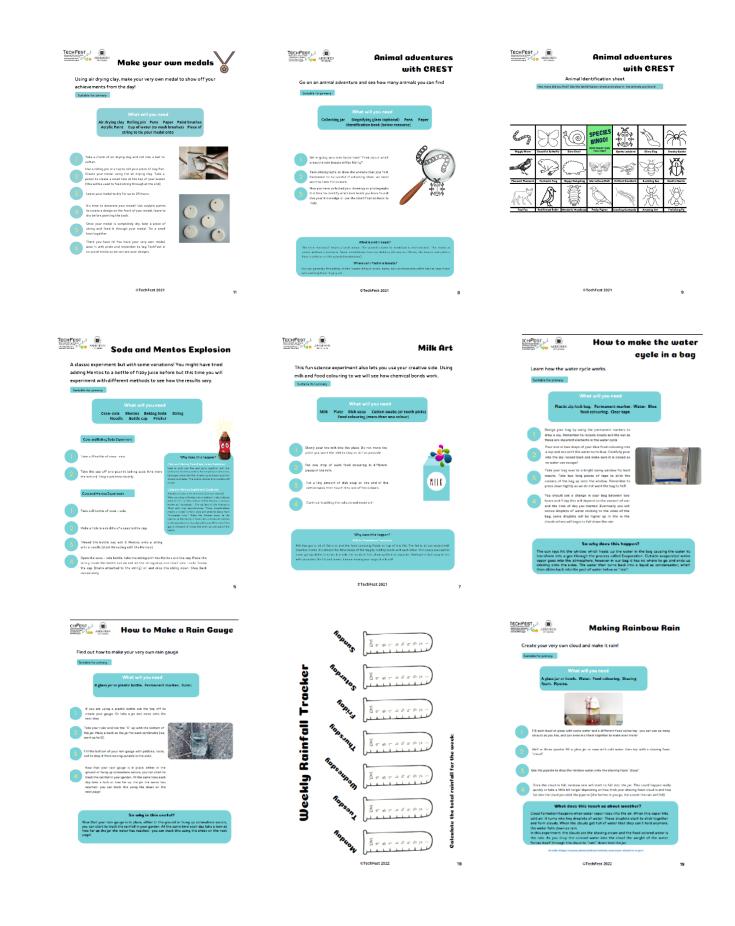


<image><image><image><text><text><text><section-header><section-header><section-header>

O TechFest 2021 4

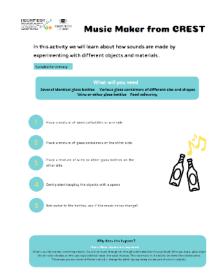
THE ACTIV

С Ц

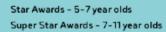




Alka-Seltzer Rockets	
Find out how you can make a rocket powered by Alka-Seltzer and water	ł.
with this fun activity.	
Suitable for primary	
What will you need Photographic film pots and lists big of water Alka-Soltzer tablets or soluble Vitamin tablet broken into quarters	
1 Remove the lid from the film pot	
Pour water into the pot until it is 15 full.	
5 Ereak an Alia-Sa Itari tablet into quartars.	
Put I quantur of the tablet on to the lid of the pot	
5 Carefully put the lid, with the tablet pieces, on the house pat. Make sure it is on vary tightly.	
Shake the pot for 2 seconds and put it, iid down, an the table (never learn) from your hand). STAND BACK	
Why does this happen?	
A chemical reaction occurs between the Alka-Seltzer tablet and the water.	
This produces a gas called carbon disxide – the same as the gas we breathe out.	
The gas builds up inside the film pot, increasing the pressure, until the lid is forced off.	
©TechFest 2022	20



#### Apply for your CREST Award



In order to gain your CREST Star or SuperStar Award you will need to complete 8 activities in total. You have already completed 4 during our Summer of Play Sociable Science workshops so why not complete 4 more activities provided in our booklet.

The children develop their investigative and teamwork skills. After completing all eight challenges, each child will receive a CREST SuperStar certificate and iron-on badge.

To apply for your CREST Star or SuperStar award for £1 visit https://apply.crestawards.org/



THE CREST AWARDS SCHEME IS THE BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG FEOPLE, PROVIDING SCIENCE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES TO INSPIRE AND ENGAGE 5-19 YEAR OLDS.

> It is the only nationally recognia accreditation scheme for projet work in scheme, technology, engineering and methematics (STEM) subjects.

In to giving young people the To find ou try to undertake henderon Awardse OREST Awards are designed involved develop skills that are www.tac able to other subjects, further or email nandhifuse emdowment. kiratvor

#### ТЕСНЕЕЭТ

TechFest is your Regional CREST Support Organisation for Sootland. TechFest.org.uk To find out more information about CREST and how to register for awards follow the link below waw constances for a second seco