

# Presenting to Different Audiences

## Preschool (3-5 years old)

- Incorporate pretending, imagination, and costume into the presentation.
- Keep discussions short and related to things that are visible or attention-getting.
- Teach kids new words, but help them out by:
  - sounding the word out;
  - using gestures and facial expressions that match the word meaning;
  - using the word several times in different contexts to show its full meaning;
  - repeating the gesture every time you use the word.
- If you want them to remember a fact you stated earlier, explicitly remind them of the context when you presented it.
- Ask questions at the beginning to determine their prior knowledge.
- Present them with observations and experiments that directly show phenomena.
- Make concepts more concrete by using analogies they understand.

## Early Grade School (6-7 years old)

- Incorporate unusual or “weird” things into the presentation.
- Incorporate play or games into presentation.
- Ask kids to make observations and help them draw conclusions from these observations.
- Teach kids new words, and use the same strategies as with preschool ages.
- Assume that children will have their own ideas about how science works; and:
  - point out correct aspects of their ideas;
  - avoid sounding negative when disputing their ideas.

## Late Grade School (8-10 years old)

- Incorporate jokes and “gross” items into the presentation.
- Longer discussions are possible, but move on to new topics when they appear tired.
- Express interest in what they have to say.
- Listen carefully to their ideas about science, and carefully correct misconceptions. As with next lower group, be sensitive to their theories.
- Ask kids to make observations and discover things on their own. Encourage problem solving.
- When teaching new words, call attention to the word, or have a placard with it. Also repeat it throughout presentation.

## Middle School (11-13 years old)

- Use adult language and voice.
- Be patient if they are quiet at first, they will wait to see how you treat them before they decide how to react.
- Use a sense of humor, but never directly tease anyone.
- Leave time at the end of the show for one-on-one conversations for those too shy to speak in the group.
- When teaching new words, call attention to the word, or have a placard with it. Also repeat it throughout presentation.
- Use accurate and explicit scientific language. These kids will be proud to know technical vocabulary.

## Preparation is Key!

The more you prepare, and the more you practice, the better your demonstration will be. Here are some ideas to keep in mind.

### Practice

- Watch others do the demo.
- Practice the demo yourself alone and for staff members before performing for the public.
- Research and learn the topic so that you can explain it to others.

### Safety

- Consult MSDS's for chemical dangers.
- Use personal protection equipment when necessary.
- Tell a staff member when, where, and what you will be doing.
- Know the location of safety equipment at OMSI

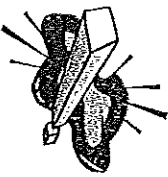

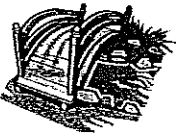
### Participation

- Decide how interactive your demonstration can be – Can visitors hold the animal? Can they touch the chemical? Can they participate?
- Include questions in your demonstration to keep visitors' interest.
- Connect the demonstration to a relevant experience in visitors' lives.

### Props and Materials

- Make a checklist and use it – twice!
- Include cleaning materials and safety equipment.
- Arrange for table, cart or other work surface if you need it.

## 4 Steps to a Great Presentation

<p><b>Get the group's attention</b></p> <p>Use an intriguing question, joke, real life example, or a simple invitation</p>  <p>Introduce yourself and the topic.</p>	<p><b>Demystify the science</b></p> <p>Repeat complicated terms and ideas; define science terms as you use them.</p>  <p>Invite questions and answer them as you go along.</p> <p>Focus on one or two main ideas.</p>
<p><b>Connect to the audience</b></p>  <p>Ask the audience questions to sustain their interest through the demonstration</p> <p>Be enthusiastic and smile</p> <p>Give examples to relate the science to experience.</p>	<p><b>End the presentation</b></p> <p>Summarize your presentation.</p> <p>Thank your audience.</p> 