**Reflection on Field Trips**

Name

Institution Affiliation

Instructor

Course

Date

**Reflection on Field Trips**

The Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh was a very enjoyable trip, and the science investigations that we did to learn about new things, like monsoon rain in India, got me back to my curiosity and fascination with science. Being with the exhibition, among its various parts, I came to realize creative and thought-provoking ways in which we were portraying different science concepts (Hoover et al., 2020). Through this method of teaching, I could touch the exhibits, and this made me interact with them, making the learning experience both interesting and unforgettable.

Among many exhibition galleries, the one I truly liked was the Robotics Gallery. Watching the complex shapes and observing the robots in action not only attracted me but also provided the source of my interest in engineering. As a child, I would imagine myself as a person who could manage and code robots, which was the beginning of my curiosity about technology and engineering.

The Buhl Planetarium, another part of my visit, was very interesting and entertaining. The feeling of travelling in a spacecraft through the boundless expanse of the Universe was indescribably amazing. Through the amazing visuals and concise explanation, it was very easy for me to learn the underlying complexities of our universe (Mead et al., 2019). Being a kid and seeing celestial magic happening right before my eyes would have been so breathtaking that astronomy has been my life-long passion ever since.

The Pittsburgh Children's Museum was an on-the-spot experience that helped me to rediscover my inner child. Starting from the very first second I entered there, the atmosphere welcomed me with a bright and interesting space, which inspired me to discover and move around the space. A water play area where children could play with different water features and learn about the characteristics of liquids in an informal and fun way was a great part there (Erin, 2020). Many times, I would've channeled my inner child and spent hours with the water tables, trying to construct dams and discovering the basics of fluid dynamics through play. The Art Studio was the other place that I liked most. The ability to reveal oneself through diverse means of speech was so liberating a feeling. As a kid, I would have enjoyed the process and the ability to freely express my creativity, experimenting with different tools and techniques without fear of judgment.

A presentation by the Pittsburgh Children's Hospital provided very helpful information discussing how the design approach with a focus on children can improve healthcare facilities. The presenters told their stories on how to design settings that nurture the health, comfort, and security of children and their relatives. What captivated me most of all were the strategies to make these facilities not only just healthcare systems but also to provide children with opportunities for play and imagination. Through their addressing the positive benefits, these components can add to children's emotional wellness, which can help the child to recover and get over the feelings of anxiety.

As someone who appreciates the significance of play and creativity, this speech has influenced my life in a very positive way. It drove home the idea that environments designed exclusively for and around the kids' interests and desires can be a solace to their overall health.

What I have learned from these weekend trips and the talk from the Pittsburgh Children's Hospital is that curiosity, creativity, independence, and the existing desire to explore the world should be nurtured during their early years to instil a sense of wonder and hope into them. In each space that I visited, I saw how creative and innovative the design was to bring out the essence of a curious mind to explore and learn in a surrounding that is educative yet secure.

As an educator, these encounters have always reminded me of the importance of following a teaching method that not only provides a strong academic base but also is fun and joyful for the children. I am motivated to bring play, touch, hands-on learning, and child-centered teaching to my practices and to ensure children learn what they want while assuring their interests and natural curiosity.

In general, these trips to the field have shown me that really well-designed environments can move mountains and, in the end, help a child grow up normally, get an education, and feel better, for example, the Carnegie Science Center, Buhl Planetarium, and the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. It articulates how these active and didactic settings enhanced children's curiosity and actively stimulated my interest in astronomy and my inner talents. The visit to the Pittsburgh Children's Hospital was the most instructive of all because it demonstrated how the interpretations and healthcare facilities should consider the evolving status and emotional needs of children. These experiences brought me a belief that education should be more playing, touch-oriented and child-led. My idea is to nurture children's natural curiosity and passion for interactive learning and how it captures young minds by nurturing a natural love of wonder and exploration.

**References**

Erin. (2020, September 9). *How to Use An Adventure Journal on Your Next Field Trip*. Bambini Travel. <https://bambinitravel.com/how-to-adventure-journal-for-field-trip/>

Hoover, J. M., Lee, J., & Hamrick, T. (2020). Community Engagement in Science Through Art (CESTA) Summer Program. *Journal of Chemical Education*, *97*(8), 2153–2159. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jchemed.9b01101>

Mead, C., Buxner, S., Bruce, G., Taylor, W., Semken, S., & Anbar, A. D. (2019). Immersive, interactive virtual field trips promote science learning.  *Journal of Geoscience Education*, *67*(2), 131–142. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10899995.2019.1565285>