



... science discovery for young explorers

SCIENCE LAB JUNIORS

What is Science Lab Juniors?

- Science Lab Juniors is a unique science-based education program specifically aimed at pre-school children.
- The highly interactive program encourages children to explore and discover their world, using experiments, activities and hands on discovery learning in a fun open environment.
- We aim to introduce children to the wonderful world of science at an early age when learning boundaries are unlimited.

Who are we?

- Science Lab Juniors is a mobile science program – we conduct our classes at select centres on a contract basis.
- In our experience the best learning outcomes are achieved in familiar surroundings where the children feel happy and secure. Hence we conduct our classes on-site, usually with the assistance of centre staff/carers, and often as an integral part of the broader curriculum/learning plans.
- Our teachers are fully qualified with either VIT registration or Working with Children checks.
- We offer years of experience in the classroom at early learning, primary and secondary levels.

What topics are covered?

- We have a full program covering all key disciplines of science (physics, biology, chemistry, earth science).
- Themes covered include kitchen chemistry, vegetable garden, planets/astronomy/rockets, and animal habitats. These are investigated in an age appropriate and fully interactive way.
- Our program can be conducted as series of stand-alone lessons, a range of activities covering a particular theme or can be tailored to suit the curriculum at your early learning centre.

What kind of activities are undertaken?

- Generally activities undertaken will involve a high level of involvement by the children. Some of the activities we have recently undertaken include mixing dough, digging soil and planting seed, handling a rabbit and discussing its foods/habitat, observing and caring for a hermit crab and play acting as astronauts on the moon.
- Some activities/experiments are teacher centred, with children encouraged to assist.



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- All activities use safe ingredients that are sourced from the “kitchen pantry” and household items.
- Throughout each session the children’s participation is encouraged through question and answer. This also enhances confidence and communication skills.

How classes are structured?

- While our classes are aimed at three-four year old (Kinder) and four-five year old (pre-prep) age groups. Similar themes are covered in each age group but are modified in recognition of the differing cognitive and fine-motor skills in each age group.
- Class length again can be tailored to suit but we recommend 30 minute (Kinder) to 60 minute (Pre-prep) classes, typically with a maximum of 15 children. We have recently introduced 60 minute classes at these levels.
- Classes begin with mat time where the lesson is introduced, followed by the activity, cleaning up, then mat time where the lesson is concluded.
- We require and encourage the involvement of room leaders/carers in our classes. In this way we can ensure that all children participate and are engaged, and that the program remains consistent with other teaching objectives.
- We also provide a brief overview of the day’s activity/experiment for display at the centre, providing some ‘talking points’ for parents. We have found that parents appreciate this feedback.

What role do the children play?

- The program is very interactive, and children are given the opportunity to participate in every aspect.
- Participation usually includes discussing the day’s activity during mat time, participating in the actual activity, show and tell, volunteering to be a helper to demonstrate something to the class, packing up and asking/answering questions.
- Although the program is stand-alone, some parental involvement may be required from time to time. Children are sometimes asked to bring material or interesting items from home. Typically these are simple or common household items.

What are the benefits?

- The obvious benefit is the enrichment of the childrens’ preschool experience, and the enhanced learning and recall of scientific knowledge.



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- The children gain the trust and confidence amongst their peers. In our experience this enables them to be happy learners in a fun, supportive and positive environment.
- Science Lab Juniors is a unique program, offering an enriching learning experience not typically available at the pre-school level. Centres offering such a learning experience will be seen as leaders in Early Learning/Preschool education providing an added service of unique, excellent quality.
- In our experience parents also highly value early learning programs that provide enrichment and better prepare their children for school.
- We operate with an ethos of ease and convenience in bringing our enrichment program to your front door.

What resources are required?

- Science Lab Juniors generally provides most of the resource and materials required to conduct our program. Sometimes, however, we may require the centre's assistance with items such as stationary or photocopying.
- From time to time in the past we have been asked by a centre to incorporate a particular theme into our activities (For example the materials to set up a hermit crab tank). The cost of larger/more expensive items required to meet these requests will be negotiated.
- Science Lab Juniors Pty Ltd has professional insurance with Guild Insurance. However any ELC or Child Care Centre is to cover any Science Lab Junior staff under their current public liability as discussed between Amanda Lau and Director of Centre.

Who is Amanda Lau?

- Amanda is the principal of Science Lab Juniors Pty Ltd, having developed the program in 2005.
- She has a B.Sci.ED with over 12 years experience in secondary schools teaching. Disciplines in science and mathematics at junior and senior levels, educational co-presenter at MAV conferences at Monash and Latrobe universities, team member of science gifted children program at secondary school, 7 years involvement in various literacy, reading, science programs at primary school level in a volunteer capacity.
- The Science Lab Juniors program developed a pilot program and delivered science for over two years at the prestigious "Kids on Collins" and now in its eighth year at "Sentia Early Learning", both within the CBD, Melbourne. It is proud to have begun its first centre on the Peninsula with Peninsula Sands Pre School, Capel Sounds Educational CCC and currently at Lyndel CCC.



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- So popular is the program that it has presented classes at after school care and primary schools.
- We have access to fully fledged scientists eg: meteorologists and archaeologists where it suits the curriculum at the centres.
- Amanda is also a keen violinist with the Frankston Symphony Orchestra and the Peninsula String Trio. Naturally, Science Lab Juniors incorporates a music component to explore the science of sounds and what makes different noises.
- She is a keen sports person having coached at junior level for 3 years and completed the N.C.A.S. Level One Basketball Coaching Accreditation in 2006.
- Amanda says that 'Working with children in the early years has highlighted the untapped wealth of talent just waiting to be explored. Young children need to be "fed" with brain "food". They are gems waiting to be discovered and noticed by the simple idiom of "that's a fantastic question" to "thank you for bringing in the insect for show and tell".
- Current years have seen the expansion to nine centres most privately run ELC's to one not for profit government funded kindergarten. Centres are located from Mornington Peninsula, outer Melbourne, CBD and Bellarine Peninsula.