

As scientific and technological literacy is a priority in today's society, introducing children to scientific concepts can assist in increasing their scientific literacy, benefitting society. Imagination Station, located in Lafayette, is a local science museum that holds the scientific literacy of the Greater Lafayette community as part of their mission statement and helps build a community of critical thinkers. Purdue Association of Magnetic Resonance has aided in this mission by providing activities for special events at Imagination Station. Using curriculum designed utilizing Next Generation Science Standards, we have developed activities to inspire the next generation of scientists. First, we have developed a sheep brain dissection to teach basic biology concepts and inspire a desire to learn more about neurobiology, biomedical engineering, and brain health. Providing the context of recent studies about brain health, using concussions related to sports, we aim to introduce children to the many career paths in STEM fields. Second, we have developed an activity for students to explore electromagnets. We are able to link advanced concepts of electricity and magnetism together in order to engage children in the basic understanding of electromagnetism. Through these outreach activities, our volunteers learn how to successfully communicate complex scientific and engineering concepts to young audience. By providing unique, hands-on activities to the community and explaining them at an appropriate understanding-level, we encourage children to approach difficult concepts and improve their self-efficacy to learn. We aim to continue these efforts by partnering with Imagination Station and developing more activities for the community.