



Being a 'Visiting Expert' at the Cambridge Science Centre

Where to find us

The Cambridge Science Centre (CSC) is located at Unit 44, Clifton Road. Behind the Cambridge Leisure Park, near the junction of Cherry Hinton Road and Hills Road. Map [here](#).

Our space

It is a relatively small space, but we have over 20 interactive exhibits and a designated 'show' area (pictures below) for demonstrations and presentations. Children and adults stand or sit on the floor or on stools. You are able to interact well with your audience. It is quite an intimate experience and the key to success is be succinct, interactive, and to make the event fun.

What to expect

Your main audience is likely to be families with children aged from 6 to 11 but can range from 3 to 83. We generally suggest that you aim your contribution at an age range of about 5 -10; older children and adults can be encouraged to ask you

questions, giving you a chance to offer further information, perhaps at the end of the presentation.

Suggested formats:

- **Drop-in activities:** You could offer a drop-in activity where you show or demonstrate an object or images and discuss these with visitors, i.e. you become a new and exciting 'interactive exhibit' for a couple of hours!
- **Make-and-take activities:** These are also very popular, when children can assemble, draw or somehow create something around which you can weave a story. For example, activities that are part of our Lifeworks programme include a DNA bracelet activity, and making a birdfeeder from a water bottle. If required we can offer limited places on a first come first served basis or make an activity bookable in advance.
- **Short presentations:** You can use our large-screen TV to show images/slides/video/sound from a laptop. A talk should last no longer than about 15 to 20 minutes, keep it short and sweet, interactive and fun.

Presenting to CSC audiences

We have lots of experience of interacting with our visitors and engaging them in activities and presentations so please do talk to us about how you might best approach your visit here. For example:

- **Ask questions:** Children love to be involved, so ask questions that they can easily give an answer to. This will help to get them thinking and draw them in.
- **Use props and demos:** Having physical objects and demonstrations, where possible, is always good for holding attention. If you can, get children (or adults, if more appropriate) up to help with the demonstrations, even if it is just by holding something up for the audience or switching something on and off.
- **Display clear, interesting images:** Exciting images help to engage audiences. Please avoid having too much text on the slides, where possible. Simple images are more accessible.
- **Use of microphone:** Your audience will usually number about 15-30 but could be up to 50 or even more during busy times, so we will ask you to wear a microphone; even the best speakers find it difficult to compete with the background buzz.

Practical details

- **Risk assessments:** We need to have risk assessments for all shows/activities, when you are doing something beyond standing and talking using a laptop. If you do not already have a risk assessment for your activity, we can help you prepare one.

- **Information for website advert:** The event will be advertised in advance on our website [What's On page](#) and for this we will need a snappy title, a brief description (up to about 40 words) and an interesting image.
- **Change of plans:** As your visit will have been advertised please let us know as soon as possible if you have to change your plans in any way.
- **Free parking:** This is available directly in front of the centre.

AV details

- We have HDMI and VGA/PC connectors for you to use your own equipment, or you can plug a memory stick into our laptop to run a powerpoint presentation on our large TV.
- We can provide you with an internet connection. Wired or wireless.
- Electricity supply - we can provide two plug sockets.
- We can put sound out to our speaker system.

Timings

- We ask that you arrive at least 15-20 mins beforehand - earlier if something is going to require more setup.
- In school holidays and at weekends we offer presentations and demonstrations at 11am, 12am, 1pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm
- The best times for talks are generally 12 noon and 2:30pm and they are usually different groups of visitors, so if you can repeat your presentation with a lunch break in between that works very well.
- Drop-in sessions fit best between 11am and 1pm and/or 2 and 4pm
- Hands-on sessions are often run at 12 noon and 3:30pm
- But we can be flexible about all timings so please let us know what suits you best.

Equipment

- We are able to store a small amount of equipment in our office before, after or between presentations, as necessary, and we have a wide selection of equipment ourselves, so please ask if there are materials you need that we might have available already.

Please do not hesitate to discuss your plans and ideas with us; our audiences may be quite different from those that you are used to and we will be pleased to help in any way we can.

Overleaf are some photos of previous 'meet the expert' sessions at the centre.



Cambridgeshire City Council running a practical litter pick, and talk afterwards.



Hilary Tunnacliffe lived plastic free for one month, here, she is telling CSC public about her experience.