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Tyler

TYLER'S DSP GETS IT IN GEAR FOR MASSIVE MOVEMENT EXHIBITION

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LEARNING FUN: A family at the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., gets acquainted with the "Turntable," spinning metal disks and balls around a central force. (Photos Courtesy Exploratorium Network)

"Motion" is in motion, on its way to the Discovery Science Place. The collection of exhibits allows children to create their own animated movies, see a beach ball float in mid-air, and roll a square wheel.

"Motion" is coming to Tyler in October from San Fransico's Exploratorium, "the granddaddy of children's museums," said Katie Powell, executive director of the Discovery Science Place.

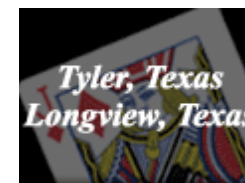
Visitors can manipulate a fluttering bridge that is modeled after the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse in Tacoma, Wash. or create a strobe flower by twirling a small scrap of a plastic grocery bag in front of the strobing of a computer screen. In "drawing table," museum visitors use a pen and drawing board connected to pendulums that swing at right angles to each other, therefore allowing the "artist" to create complex patterns.

This exhibit is focused toward middle school and high school students from Tyler and rural districts around the East Texas area, Ms. Powell said.

"Usually the Discovery Science Place is not focused on older kids, but this works for everyone," she said.

DSP is partnering with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and the Exploratorium to bring the motion exhibit to Tyler in October.

Motion is one branch of the three-part exhibit that is alternating between Tyler, Laredo Children's Museum and Science Spectrum in Lubbock. Each museum will have a new exhibit for three years. These museums were picked because



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they are outside the larger Texas cities and draw visitors from the surrounding rural areas.

To not take away from other exhibits already on display at the DSP, the Cabe Foundation donated the funds to renovate a storage room at the museum into a new exhibit hall.

Field trips to such exhibits should help students see math and science theories in action and ultimately help them on the TAKS test.

"People learn differently, they get some knowledge when they see or hear it, more when they read but they learn the most when they actually do it and put the theory to use," Ms. Powell said. "This will help visitors make the physical and mental connection of a theory so that it is ingrained knowledge."

She said the best part is kids don't even know they are learning.

"They know they had a good time but they don't realize they were learning, too," she said.

Kristi Flippin writes features, and covers Henderson, Wood & Van Zandt counties. She can be reached at 903.596-6267. e-mail: news@tylerpaper.com

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