

TRANSCRIPT- OSF kicks off STEAM November with activities at Peoria Children's Museum

Shannon Egli (pronounced EGG-lee), OSF STEAM instructor and coordinator of the Anatomy Lab at Jump Simulation & Education Center

"I think by them coming and playing with these things, it might introduce them to the health care field and maybe it'll interest them in doing more STEAM things like what we offer at Jump or at OSF where they can come in and dissect a shark, they can dissect a squid or build a heart pump that's just like a functioning heart pump that's inside a person and they can just keep going with it." Egli explains, "This is really just an introduction to the health care field through a sense of play, but they get that extra knowledge at the same time." (:28)

Egli says anything that's slimy or offers a unique tactile experience goes over well.

"We have squishy organs where they can lay on the ground, trace their body and then put the squishy organs where they think they're supposed to go on their own body, so they get a chance to understand where parts of their body are on this piece of paper. It's really cool because they like to squish a heart or liver or lungs and really get to play with it and get involved." (:17)

Five-year-old Eleanor Egli who enjoyed a preview of activities

Five-year-old Eleanor showed off her knowledge as she made her way through some of the organs.

"The brain is squishy, and this is where you put it," she explained while putting the pink brain on top of her head. "It has some grit on it, and you pop it like this," Eleanor demonstrates while squeezing and twisting the brain, "And its white stuff. And these are the lungs," as she holds them to her chest and then pushes them out and in towards her to represent breathing. "And this is the heart," Eleanor declares while placing it near the center of her chest. (:24)

OSF Innovation Labs coordinator Katie Smith

Smith says kids can dive into hands-on learning by exploring bone structures.

"It will show the skeleton so kids can see what the skeleton is supposed to look like, because it can be a little bit complicated. It also talks about how buildings and skeletons are similar so the scaffolding in a building is similar to the skeleton in a human." (:17)