

Edinburgh Science Festival – fun for families

Edinburgh Science Festival runs from 1 to 16 April. It is intended to give people of all ages the chance to experiment, and these highlights are aimed at family fun.

There are opportunities to perform a surgery, dig up a dinosaur, build a wind turbine and code your own robot at City Art Centre, or you can get hands on at the National Museum of Scotland with *FutureFest*, *Experimental Life* and *EarthFest* interactive exhibitions, and the Festival fun continues with various activities around the city.

Junior Reading Experiment (4-6 April) gives sci-curious young minds a chance to meet science authors while the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh presents, among many others trails and workshops, *Frankenstein's Plants: The Revenge* (14-16 April) where children design their own herbarium specimen to take home, and *Spring in the Vegetable Garden* (16 April) – all about growing your own food at home.

Taking to heart Greta Thunberg's words "No one is too small to make a difference.", Dynamic Earth presents *Use Your Voice* (1-16 April) an exhibition about young climate activists inspiring the next generation, and explains the wonders of the weather in *Whatever the Weather* (6 & 13 April) workshop for children 1+.

Over at the Edinburgh Zoo, animal enthusiasts learn all about our ancestors in *Primates Pop-Up* (6-7 April) activity for all

ages and the recent discoveries at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland followed by breakfast and activities in *Eggsperimental Breakfast* (1-2 & 15-16 April).

Out and about, audiences can visit *Cherish: Shaping Our Planet* (23 March – 4 May) photography exhibition on Portobello Promenade, take part in *Operation Sabotage* escape room experience at the National Museum of Flight (14-15 April), visit Yellowcraig Beach to learn how to identify and prepare wild vegetables and seaweeds in a *Guided Walk with Monica Wilde* (8 April) or pop by The Bayes Centre for a chance to meet humanoid robots and hear about how they can assist humans in *Meet the Robots* (14 April).

For the rainy stay-at-home days, [EdSciFest on Demand](#) is the perfect answer – a free online resource full of engaging workshops, quizzes and self-led trails.



Edinburgh Science Festival is the first and one of the most respected science festivals in the world, taking place over the Easter holidays, between 1 and 16 photo shows Stephanie

Maia with daughter Valentina (age 7) experimenting with dry ice at Summerhall, one of the Festival venues. PHOTO Ian Georgeson