

Duke Energy interns Christopher Reid, left, and Andy Jones help kids add glitter to their sensory bottles during hands-on science day Wednesday at the World of Energy.



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Kids go hands-on with science at World of Energy

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SENECA — Some children are visual learners and others are aural or verbal, but nearly all kids thrive in a kinesthetic environment.

That's why the World of Energy welcomed 50 kids to come and get their hands dirty with some hands-on science experiments this week.

The workshop was part of the education center's popular Wednesdays at the WOE summer series, providing an opportunity for kids of the Upstate to learn about science in a fun and engaging way.

On Wednesday, the kids flocked to a station where Duke Energy reactor engineer Christopher Chance volunteered his time to teach the science and art of making slime. He and other volunteers had never made slime before, but they learned quickly.

"We added Borax to water in a bowl, and then we mixed together glue, water,

glitter and food coloring in a cup," he said. "When we added that solution in with the Borax, the Borax bonded with the glue and it thickened to where you get this pasty sliminess that the kids love."

Chance said the slime station was one of the kids' favorites because they enjoyed getting their hands messy. Another top pick of the day was the kinetic sand experiment, where children added dish soap to sand and cornstarch to create a spongy consistency similar to wet sand, but not quite as sticky.

Aiden Wallace, 9, and his brother Isaiah Charles, 4, said their favorite activity was making the sensory bottles.

"First, we put all the beads in (a small plastic bulb), then we sprinkled glitter inside through a funnel and then we put water in it, then baby oil, and then we screwed the lid on and shook it all up," Wallace said.

Duke Energy intern

and volunteer Andy Jones said the purpose of the craft was to have the children observe how the different materials floated within the mixture of liquid when the bottle was shaken.

"The separation of liquids is really apparent when you have the baby oil and water in the bulb," he said.

West Union resident Virginia Ayres brought her great-grandchildren, Wallace and Charles, to the hands-on science day at the World of Energy for the experience and the education.

"I think this is wonderful for the children to have hands-on experiences so they can learn science at an early age in a fun way," she said.