

# Statement of Bernie Zubrowski "Goals" in

Doing Science Programming at the Children's Museum

as of June 1987.

## ~~Purpose~~

The essential purpose of the exhibits &

design, the books I write, and the workshops and

programs I conduct in all schools and at the museum

is to encourage children and adults to explore the

natural and man-made world. I do this by

presenting what I call intrinsically interesting

phenomena. These are materials, or natural objects

or situations which have high aesthetic appeal,

or counter-intuitive properties, or are directly related

to practical aspects of people's everyday life.

The emphasis in the exhibit, program and

looks in on direct exploration of the phenomena  
 doing it by way of carefully designed materials  
 and thought provoking questions. The basic  
 pedagogical approach is to promote an  
 interaction between the phenomena and the learner  
 with the teacher acting as a <sup>mediator</sup> mediator ~~of~~ <sup>guiding</sup> ~~the~~  
 the exploration so that basic scientific principles  
 emerge through dialogue rather than direct teaching  
 The materials are designed to engage children  
 and adults at the sensual, affective and cognitive  
 level for it is my position that the whole person  
 has to be engaged if the learning is going to  
 take place. The phenomena is presented in  
 a variety of forms so that by repeated exposure  
 exposure the learner will be able to grasp

the essential properties as they relate to basic scientific principles. Implied in this approach is that learning is a lifelong undertaking. The phenomena presented have been chosen because they represent concrete instances of conceptual archetypes that can be developed to various levels of abstraction. As a person moves along in their schooling these increasing levels of abstractions become more prominent in their learning, but reference is always to the basic phenomena.

Overall, the purpose is to engage children and ~~and~~ adults in a satisfying exploration of their environment done in by means of a framework that engages the entire person so that

learning is meaningful and personally  
satisfying