

## **Building the future of crystallography through active engagement**

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It is often said that the best way to learn something is to teach it. Many of us have become better crystallographers and chemists ourselves by having to teach these concepts to a new audience every year. At the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC), we have long partnered with academic collaborators to create educational materials for students of all ages. This year, we found that not only do you learn more by teaching, you also become more excited about something when you try to engage the public with it. In March, we participated in the Cambridge University Science Festival. We created several hands-on activities on the topics of diffraction, crystallization and structural chemistry aimed at teaching these concepts to young children. Planning and presenting these activities reinforced these topics for us, and by helping the young participants work through them, we became more engaged and excited ourselves.

This presentation will explore the various educational resources available from the CCDC – from the hands-on activities of the science festival to other teaching tools from our collaborators. We welcome a discussion of how we can better support worldwide community efforts to actively engage with students and non-scientists alike, thereby fostering greater awareness of crystallography both within the research community and throughout the general public.