

ASTROKIDS: from a bookshop to the stars!

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Abstract

How can you catch children's attention using books and science in a single playfull event? This is the question that the National Institute for Astrophysics (Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica - INAF) and the Italian nationwide bookshop Librerie Feltrinelli tried to answer to, with a didactic year long project named ASTROKIDS. A number of weekly appointments have allowed hundreds of children 5 years and older, living in nine different Italian cities to learn about the solar system, about astrophysics and physics while playing games, drawing, listening and creating stories. In a few words, just having fun in a bookshop on a Sunday morning.

Within the frame of this nationwide initiative, the Institute for Space Astrophysics and Planetology (Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziali, IAPS), with the collaboration of OAR (Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma), organized and realized in 2012 a number of events that took place in Rome. Thanks to the wide range of scientific activities carried out by IAPS scientists, topics ranged from Moon exploration to shooting stars, from gravity to stars' birth. In each appointment, kids had the chance to learn about planetology and astrophysics, participating to games, creating clay models, building paper spacecrafts, listening to stories and...just having fun.

In this talk we will present some of the most interesting and successful stories in the Astrokids project.

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