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Booklet

Family Learning at Community Science Centers

Frederick Steier

Cybernetic principles have been used in all aspects of design for learning at a regional science center. This has included, in addition to a rethinking of the scientific ideas themselves, issues of the design of exhibits/galleries, the role of explainers/interactors as part of the science center staff, and the organization of the science center itself. In particular, cybernetic understanding has led to thinking about the ways that families learn, as a system, in their visits to the science center, and the implications of this (including family therapeutic techniques) for ways of inviting learning in a systemic context at a science center. Implications for cybernetic issues of public understanding of science in general are also discussed.