

Bubbles: Blown, bounced, beloved

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Forrest Mayer loves teaching, and it was evident when he figuratively “hit the floor running” at Broken Arrow Library last week, bubbling over with fun information about — well — bubbles, even square ones.

Addressing a “full house” of children and parents, Mayer’s Broadway voice and enthusiasm for presentation kept his audience awed. The room already having reached capacity when the program began, the children had a lesson in sharing as they moved in to make room for more bubble lovers coming in the door.

Mayer, the outreach educator from Discovery Lab at Tulsa Children’s Museum, inspired the participants with talk of square bubbles, surface tension, molecules, and, “Did you know carbon dioxide smells like soda pop?” Everyone got a sniff. Then each child each got a straw. Let the bubbles begin!

Mayer, who grew up with his brother on the stage in their father’s Las Vegas act, said crowds are not threatening to him. “I feel more comfortable in a situation like this than I do at home,” he said. Having already studied business and marketing, he’s realizing that education is his real niche. “I love teaching,” he said, and plans to go back to school to study education.

Mayer shared with the children that all the things they’ve seen at the children’s museum are gone, and all new exhibits have taken their place, including a section on spheres — bubbles — and a life-sized foosball game. Each child received an admission pass for one in their library goody bag.

They also received the good advice that nothing is impossible; it just hasn’t been figured out yet.



1. Cinyah and Derrick Roberts give one another a helping hand. **2.** Sometimes it’s fun to look around and see what everyone else is doing. **3.** Soon after explaining carbon monoxide, Forrest Mayer has more science experiments up his sleeve. **4.** Children watch in awe as Forrest Mayer explains dry ice and makes fog right before their eyes. Then everyone gets a sniff of the soda-pop smelling concoction.

PHOTOS BY JO JENNINGS