Description:

In My Backyard is designed especially for young children and families. Using laser animation and traditional multi-media techniques, this show features story-telling, poetry, and songs to encourage children to learn through listening and participating.

Narrated by popular Canadian Children Television host Fred Penner, this show carefully and gently introduces even the most timid child to the night sky. Before the lights go out, Fred heads out to his “Backyard” where there are all sorts of interesting things to see: a garden, a birdbath, trees, and of course the whole sky!

Sing along with Fred as he enthusiastically leads the audience (adults too!) in songs about the stars, the moon, and the planets.

The Big Bear, Little Bear, and Leo the Lion make an appearance while audiences hear the story of how the celestial bears got such long tails. Along the way we explore familiar sky objects like shooting stars (a.k.a. meteors), the Moon and its phases, as well as a few advanced concepts like seasons, gravity, and telescopes.

The show includes a live customized Digistar tour of the current evening sky and basic astronomy lessons.

Basic Information:

- Designed primarily for grades K-2 (3rd and 4th Grade standards also addressed)
- Maximum participants per session: 210
- Location: Planetarium Theater
- Running time: 40 minutes (add 20 min. for Star Walk)
- Teacher's activities guide available.

Key Concepts Covered:

- Weather, wind, clouds, rain, temperature, and rainbows.
- Familiar plants and animals found in one’s backyard.
- Making a terrarium.
The Sun, light and shadows, and telling time with a sundial.
- The Moon.
- Meteors and the aurora borealis.
- Day and night.
- Constellations as star pictures.
- Planets.

**Sunshine State Standards Addressed:**

**Kindergarten:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- K.E.5.1 Explore the Law of Gravity by showing how objects are pulled to the ground unless something holds them up.
- K.E.5.2 Recognize the repeating patterns of day & night.
- K.E.5.3 Recognize that the Sun is only visible in the daytime.
- K.E.5.4 Note the Moon can sometimes be seen at night and sometimes during the day.
- K.E.5.6 Note that some things are far away and others are nearby as seen from Earth.

**Big Idea #14 – Organization and Development of Living Organisms**
- K.L.14.3 Observe plants & animals; note how they are alike and different in appearance and behavior.

**Big Idea #8 – Properties of Matter**
- K.P.8.1 Sort objects by observable properties such as size, shape, color, temperature, weight & texture.

**1st Grade:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- 1.E.5.3 Explain how magnifiers make things look bigger & allow us to see things not visible to our eyes alone.
- 1.E.5.4 Identify harmful & beneficial properties of the Sun.

**Big Idea #6 – Earth Structures**
- 1.E.6.1 Recognize that water, rocks, soil & living organisms are found on Earth’s surface.

**Big Idea #14 – Organization and Development of Living Organisms**
- 1.L.14.3 Differentiate between living and nonliving things.

**Big Idea #17 - Interdependence**
- 1.L.17.1 Recognize that all plants & animals need the basic necessities of air, water, food & space.

**2nd Grade:**

**Big Idea #7 – Earth Systems and Patterns**
- 2.E.7.1 Compare & describe changing & repeating patterns in nature like weather, temperature, precipitation, day to day and season to season.
- 2.E.7.2 Observe & measure how the Sun's energy directly & indirectly warms the water, land & air.

**Big Idea #13 – Forces and Changes in Motion**
- 2.P.13.3 Recognize that objects are pulled toward the ground unless something holds them up.
**3rd Grade:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- 3.E.5.2 Explain that our Sun is a star that emits light energy.
- 3.E.5.3 Explain that the Sun looks big & bright because it is the closest star to Earth.

**Big Idea #6 – Earth Structures**
- 3.E.6.1 Demonstrate that radiant solar energy heats objects and when sun is absent, heat may be lost.

**Big Idea #11 – Energy Transfer and Transformations**
- 3.P.11.1 Investigate, observe and explain that things that give off light also give off heat.

**Big Idea #17 - Interdependence**
- 3.L.17.1 Describe how animals and plants respond to changing seasons.

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**4th Grade:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- 4.E.5.2 Monthly change in the shape of the Moon.
- 4.E.5.3 Daily rotation of Earth about its axis; yearly revolution of Earth around the Sun.
- 4.E.5.4 Relate Earth’s rotation to the apparent daily motion of Sun, Moon & stars.
- 5.E.5.3 Identify solar system objects: Sun, planets, moons, asteroids & comets. Identify Earth’s place in the Solar System.

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