

The Excitement Of Being A Junior Scientist For A Day!

This is a special Sunday and when I woke up in the morning with all my excitement I knew I was going to be a junior scientist for the day at the University of London!

After that my mum made me an exquisite breakfast at home, and I prepared myself very quickly. Then we set off to central London for me to meet the Scientists at the world-renowned Department of Psychological Sciences of Birkbeck, University of London. When we reached there, my parents showed me around the Bloomsbury campus. Then I met Dr Louise Ewing, who came to see me at the main reception and took me to her science research laboratory. The lab had a restricted access door and when I reached the centre for brain research, I also met another scientist called Dr Michael who was to control all the computers and set everything up for the day's experiment. I got busy interacting with the scientists and when I entered into the experiment room I saw it was decorated with lots of stars. I said instantly to Dr Louise that it looked like I was in outer space! The main goal of the day was to investigate how my brain thinks and reacts while I interact with different computer based games. I told Dr Louise a bit about myself and she shared some funny jokes with me. Dr Michael measured my head using a measuring tape to fit a special cap. I noticed my head measured 54 cm. The experimental hat had many wires in it to record all of my brain waves during the interactive session. When I wore the cap I also put some gel in my hair and looked in the mirror...I thought I looked like an alien!

Then I started to play lots of fun games like butterflies and missing puzzle pieces. My favourite game that I played with Dr Louise was the word game where I had to see four pictures at a time, and Dr Louise uttered a word and I had to recognise the picture that best described that word. It was getting harder and harder! Altogether, I played about six video games and kept achieving scores on my laboratory progress report. After about two hours of experiments in the lab, we accomplished the mission and I received a junior scientist certificate as well as Waterstones gift voucher from the University. Before I left the lab, I was taken to a science salon to wash the gloopy gel out of my hair.

My parents were waiting at the main reception desk to collect me. They were very proud of me and took me for lunch at Brunswick Square and bought me a small heart-shaped chocolate cake from a local patisserie shop. It was a lovely sunny afternoon when we drove back home smoothly. I kept the certificate in my room and started drafting this article as I can't wait to share this brain-storming experience at the University with my friends.



Sreeja



Dr Louise Ewing and me



Me and my special alien cap!