ACES is a win-win situation for the students and the museum. The students infuse 
creative energy 
into our exhibits and programs. Their enthusiasm stimulates our staff to stretch themselves and the program dips into the inherent idealism that brings people into the museum field.

For the students ACES is a pivotal experience from which they reap life-long benefits.

Jennifer Arnold  
Youth Program Manager
Conclusion

Youth Programs in children’s museums are wonderful opportunities for experiential and student directed learning and play. We believe that our program strengths lie in the length of time the students are engaged in the program for students (3-4 years for most students), our focus on student-directed learning and our willingness to engage in partnerships and programming outside of the museums walls. In addition we consistently hold our students to high standards, create a structured program and work to develop strong staff mentors. When students come into this environment at Please Touch Museum they are asked to help create a phenomenal community.

Students involved in our Youth Program have changed the face of Please Touch Museum. They bring energy into our museum. Please Touch Museum staff is inspired by the students they have met and all the different paths that they have seen students take. We are so proud of the students that have passed through our doors.

Good luck on your journey towards creating and improving Youth Programs in your museum. We hope that this book has helped you develop exciting new ideas about how you can work with youth. We hope that this has been a space to initiate change, growth, creativity and inspiration. Enjoy the ongoing, messy process of engaging youth in museum play and work.
We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.  

Maya Angelou

ACES students and Jennifer Arnold (Youth Program Manager) learn to write with quills at Pilmoth Plantation, MA. Left to right:
Resources

Websites

Academy for Educational Development (AED)/Center for Youth Development and Policy Research:
http://www.aed.org/Youth/

Administration for Children and Families
http://www.nCFy.com/ydfactsh.htm

The Asset Approach: Giving Kids What they Need to Succeed.
Copyright 1997 Search Institute Minneapolis MN
http://www.search-institute.org/communities/hchy.html

The Center for Teen Empowerment
http://teenempowerment.org

National Mentoring Center:
http://www.nwrel.org/mentoring/

National Mentoring Partnership:
www.mentoring.org

National Youth Development Information Center
http://www.nydic.org/

YouthALIVE! Regional Networks:
http://www.astc.org/profdev/youth.htm
This organization is to support museums and science centers with youth programs. These youth program professionals share resources, experiences, organize professional development opportunities and occasionally gather students for cross-museum programming.

"Youth Today: The Newspaper on Youth Work."
www.youthtoday.org
Books


Footnotes

Page 29

Page 57

Page 58
3. Ibid

Page 60
4. Ibid

Page 61
5. Ibid

Page 62
6. Ibid

Page 63
7. Ibid

Page 64
8. Ibid

Page 65
10. Ibid
11. Ibid
12. Ibid

Page 86

Page 90