



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Little Scientists
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www.littlescientists.ch



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Who we Are

A big year for our Little Scientists! 🚀

Here at Little Scientists, an NGO founded in 2021 by Scilla Roncallo and Simon Ritchie, our mission is to spark a love for science and technology in kids from 3 to 14 years old. We believe every child has the potential to be a brilliant inventor and problem-solver! Our team of awesome university students, professors, and industry pros works together to make STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fun and accessible for everyone. We offer everything from after-school clubs and holiday camps to birthday parties and weekend workshops, all designed to get kids excited about the world around them. Our goal is to break down barriers and make sure all children have a chance to explore science and tech, so they can become the future innovators and leaders of tomorrow!



Dr Scilla Roncallo



Dr Simon Ritchie

Reflections from our President

Dear Little Scientists Friends and Supporters,

2024 has presented significant challenges for the entire globe and for many organizations. The broader geopolitical context has caused increased social polarization and shifted the landscape of Corporate Social Responsibility and inclusion initiatives.

Despite these headwinds, Little Scientists has remained steadfast in our mission, and we are deeply proud of the meaningful progress we have achieved. In 2024, we gained greater clarity on where Little Scientists can make the most impactful contributions through our three core initiatives: Mint Kidz Project

We are particularly proud of the partnerships we established with two local schools in Kanton Zurich and Google. Working directly with Oberrieden and Nordstrasse schools, we have been engaging primary school students and their teachers to inspire and equip them to explore the exciting world of robotics and coding.

To expand our reach and impact, we are planning launch in 2025 a virtual learning education (VLE) platform. This platform will provide teachers around the world with access to carefully designed resources that inspire their students in STEM learning, ensuring quality educational materials are available regardless of geographic constraints.

On our partnerships with private companies we have co-hosted engaging workshop days with Sunrise, demonstrating the power of collaborative efforts in advancing STEM education.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the tireless and dedicated work of our volunteers and staff, who bring passion, energy, expertise, and enthusiasm to our activities every day. We are equally grateful for the generous donations we have received, and we hope this vital support will continue throughout 2025 and beyond.

We invite everyone who believes in creating a more equitable world and fostering inclusive access to STEM education to join us in spreading the word about Little Scientists' important work.

On behalf of the Board and executive management, thank you for your continued trust, encouragement, and unwavering belief in our mission.



Luisa Boaretto

The Board

Little Scientists proudly elected a new board, marking a significant step forward for our organization. The new board comprises:

- **Luisa Boaretto** – President
- **Simon Schmidli** – Vice President
- **Maria Cassa Rohrer** – Treasurer
- **Alessandro Cinelli** – Member
- **Scilla Zischek** – Member

This highly qualified board brings fresh perspectives and expertise, laying the foundation for innovative projects and sustained growth. Their leadership signals the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Little Scientists.



Luisa Boaretto

Global Head of DEI at Grundfos



Simon Schmidli

Founder, edutainity / Business
Development Manager



Maria A. Cassa Rohrer

Chief of Staff (CIO) at Sunrise



Alessandro Cinelli

Head of Aero Operations and
Technology, Sauber Group



Scilla Zischek

Professional Education Specialist

Our Partners

Gold

Google

Roche

Silver

DOW

Donors

Infosys

cellnex



United Way España

Numbers



900 Bookings



+ 900 parents registered



+800 Children registered



30% girls



2 Partner Public Schools



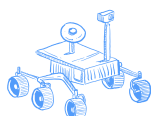
+100 Hours of STEM offered in Public Schools



8 Holiday Camps



6 STEM Clubs

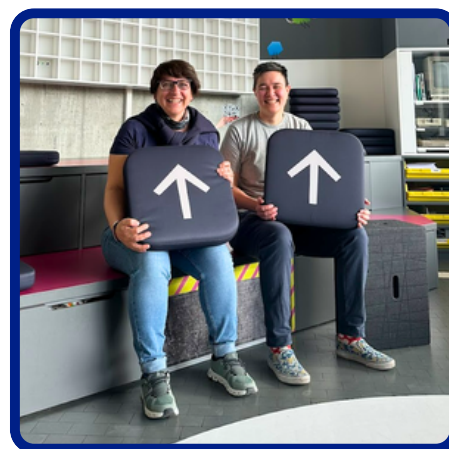


15 STEM weekend workshops

Highlights 2024

Digital Switzerland village Davos and the Deutsches Technik Museum Berlin

This past year, our organization was honored to be invited to several key events that provided valuable insights and collaboration opportunities. We were invited to attend the **digitalswitzerland Village | Davos 2024**, where we participated in presentations and panel discussions focused on the crucial themes of education, professionals, and diversity. This event allowed us to engage with leading experts and gain a deeper understanding of the evolving digital landscape. Additionally, on the invitation of **Martin Bütikofer** from the **Luzern Museum of Transport**, we had the opportunity to visit the **Technik Museum** in **Berlin**. This visit was instrumental in helping us benchmark and understand best practices for enhancing our own educational offerings and developing new, innovative programs for the future.



Highlights 2024

MINT KidZ Schule Project: Google support

In partnership with **Google**, Little Scientists has launched a ground breaking coding and robotics program. We began with a highly successful pilot project, collaborating directly with **Oberrieden** and **Nordstrasse** schools to deliver hands-on workshops that engaged 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in the exciting world of technology. This initial success highlighted a crucial need: in our increasingly high-tech world, every student must have the opportunity to develop these essential skills, regardless of their background. We are now committed to a sustainable, more impactful model. By empowering teachers to confidently and independently integrate **STEM** into their classrooms from an early age, we can ensure that the program's benefits are not limited to a select group of students but are accessible to all. Our focus on inclusion and equity aims to dismantle barriers and create pathways for all young learners to explore their potential in coding and robotics, providing equal opportunities for every child to thrive and innovate in a diverse and creative future.



- More than 500 young learners involved
- 2 Schools Partnered
- +100 hours of coding and robotics activities offered
- Skills Developed: Coding, Robotics, Problem-solving, and Teamwork.

“These two double lessons were truly phenomenal! Especially in these exploratory learning settings, the children's creativity and networking skills are particularly evident. We feel very privileged to have been selected as a pilot school through Little Scientists' request.”

Nicolas Dudler, Schulleiter Primarschule
Schule Oberrieden, Zürich

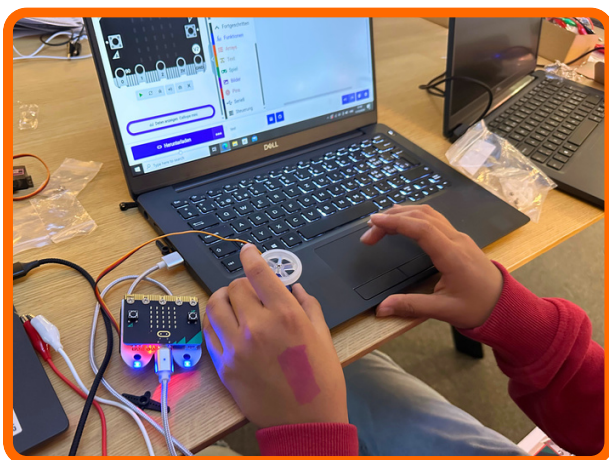
May 2024

Highlights 2024

Workshop for Children in Needs: a Partnership with KulturLegi

A cornerstone of our mission this year has been the success of our STEM workshops for children. Thanks to generous support from **KulturLegi**, we organized four impactful workshops through invaluable partnerships with **Sunrise, Infosys, Cellnex, and United Way España**. These partnerships, made possible through their financial contributions, enabled us to provide engaging, hands-on experiences in robotics and coding, fostering a passion for technology in the next generation. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with approximately 130 children participating. This initiative was made possible by the incredible support of over 20 dedicated volunteers who contributed their time and expertise, directly demonstrating the power of community collaboration in advancing STEM education.

- 130 children and teens participated
- 3 companies and 1 NGO supported the events
- +20 volunteers involved



Highlights 2024

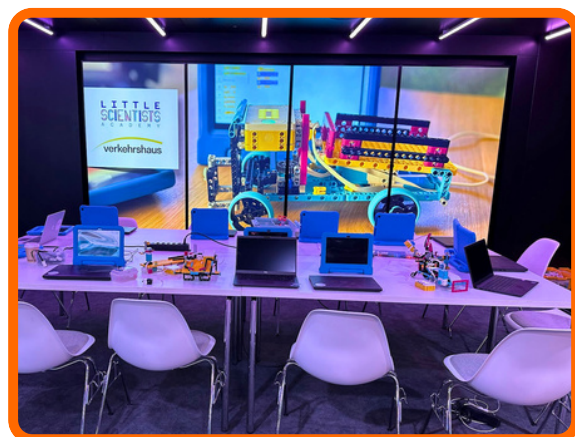
From Zurich to Rüti: A Strategic Move

To support our growth, we made a strategic move this year. We started by offering activities at Coetry Lab, a wonderful 135m² STEM space in the heart of Zurich. We hosted many successful holiday camps, weekend workshops, and weekly clubs there. To optimize our resources and ensure we can continue to offer high-quality programs, we have now transitioned to a new, smaller office in Rüti. Our office is near the train station making it easy for our members of staff and volunteers to reach us.



An amazing opportunity: Little Scientists @ the Verkehrshaus Luzern

Our STEM educational outreach program had an incredible highlight with the Lego robotics workshop hosted at the **Verkehrshaus in Luzern**. We were thrilled to welcome two public school classes for an unforgettable day of hands-on learning. The energy in the room was palpable as the students dove into building and programming their own robots. The results were nothing short of amazing, with the children showing a natural aptitude for problem-solving and collaboration. The joy on their faces was a testament to the power of play-based learning, and the enthusiasm of their teachers was equally rewarding. It was a truly successful event that demonstrated how engaging STEM can be and left everyone feeling inspired and excited about technology's potential.



Highlights 2024

STEM Holiday Camps

Our 2024 holiday camps were a resounding success, offering eight unique opportunities for students aged 5 to 12 to dive into the world of STEM. The camps provided a dynamic blend of activities: mornings were dedicated to the exciting world of Lego Robotics, while afternoons were filled with hands-on science experiments and coding challenges. Each camp explored a different captivating theme, from celebrating famous scientists and exploring winter sports to delving into the mysteries of crazy chemistry.



- **8 STEM camps**
- **+300 hours of STEM activities**
- **More than 100 children and teens participated**

“As a computer science student passionate about technology, it was a joy to spend two weeks guiding young “little scientists” through robotics, science experiments, and their first steps in programming. Watching them light up as their LEGO robots moved or their Scratch games came to life was priceless. I hope these moments planted seeds of curiosity, showing them that technology isn’t just something you use — it’s something you can create, shape, and have fun with.”

Lucio - STEM Instructor



Highlights 2024

STEM Workshops and Afterschool Clubs

STEM Weekend Workshops

Throughout the year, we were proud to offer over 15 STEM workshops on Saturdays. These sessions engaged students in a variety of activities, from advanced Lego robotics to exciting science experiments. We are especially grateful for the support of our incredible volunteers from leading companies like Google and Dow, whose expertise and passion helped to enrich the learning experience for every student. Their contributions were vital in making our workshops a success.



- 15 STEM Weekend Workshops
- 6 STEM Clubs
- +200 kids involved
- 10 volunteers

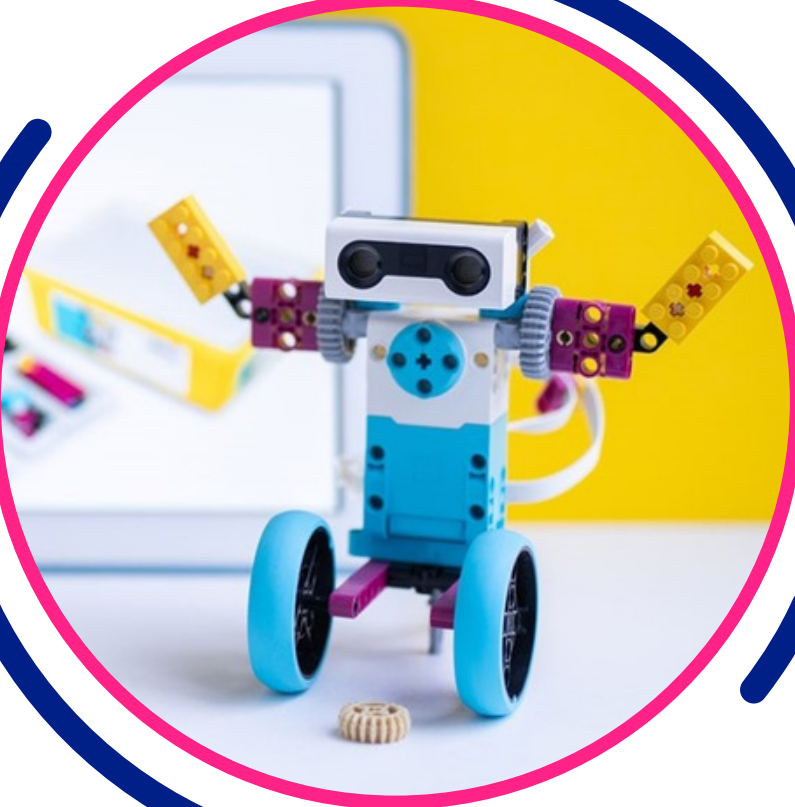


STEM Clubs

Our commitment to providing continuous STEM education was also evident in our after-school programs. We successfully offered dedicated Lego robotics and STEM clubs at two prestigious international schools: Terranova and ISZN. These clubs allowed us to integrate our hands-on, inquiry-based approach directly into the school week, providing a consistent and engaging learning environment for students.

Financial Statements

Revenue	CHF
Donations	83'850
Earned Income	98'742
TOTAL Revenue	182'592
Expenses	
Personnel included SVA/pensions	110'123
Operating expenses (materials, marketing, suppliers, etc)	50'005
TOTAL EXPENSES	160'128
DIFFERENCE EXPENSES/REVENUE	22'464



Contact Us



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