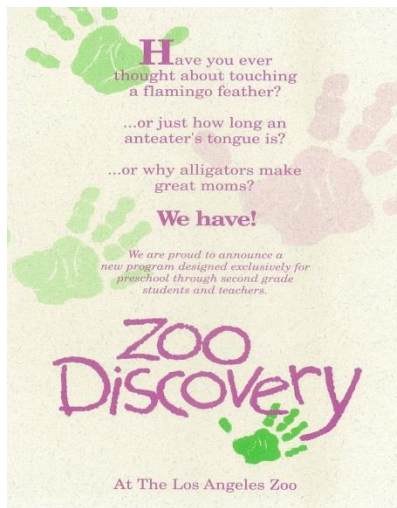


Zoo Discovery Program
Los Angeles Zoo
Los Angeles, California

National Education Award
American Zoo and Aquarium Association

A large, possibly overwhelming animal collection, inaccessible sign content, and language barriers had prevented the vast majority of young children and their parent chaperones from fully experiencing the Los Angeles Zoo.



The Acorn Group designed and produced the teacher's guide, activity cards, and interpretive media, all packaged in a canvas tote bag the chaperones check out. In addition, we wrote the Zoo Discovery newsletters and conducted field-testing and teacher workshops in cooperation with Los Angeles Unified School District and the Zoo's education department.



The Acorn Group created the Zoo Discovery program for the Los Angeles Zoo, an innovative program that introduces the Zoo's collection to non-English speaking preschool and primary elementary students. This program was honored by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, receiving the top National Education Award in 1992.

Part of what makes the Zoo Discovery Program so unique is its use of hands-on interpretive media, such as inner tubing to simulate the long tongue of an anteater and tiny life-size clay models of kangaroo joeys that empower each tour groups' teachers and chaperones to become effective docents. Language barriers were removed with translation of each station's activity card into five languages.

