#### **Everyday Science at Home for Parents & Students:** The Home , Yard and Garage as Laboratories



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#### **Everyday Science: The Home , Yard and Garage as Laboratories**

- Your child's first teacher.
- Children and parents benefits from engaging in the shared learning experiences that support a child's personal, social, and academic development.
- All young learners remember more content when they have first-hand experiences rather than just reading about them -- the human brain does its best learning by "doing."

I hear, and I forget.I see, and I remember.I do, and I understand.



#### **Everyday Science: The Home , Yard and Garage as Laboratories**

The science and engineering activities highlighted here today will...

- 1. provide your child with new knowledge in physical science and skills in engineering
- 2. help them maintain their critically important academic skills while away from school
- 3. offer the kind of shared learning experiences that build positive parent-child communications and relationships.
- 4. Remind you and your child that we are all learners regardless of age.

# Science at home



At-home investigations Observations, conversations & writing



#### Human-to-Human Interface:

Transferring the electrical signals from one person's brain to the hands of both people



**270** = m.p.h. – the speed at which neuronal signals travel



#### Science and Engineering Practices = Think and Act Like a Scientist

# Research is a formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.

-- Zora Neale Hurston





## Exploring and Playing with Bridges

## 1. What is the purpose of a bridge?

## 2. What how is a bridge constructed?







## Many Purposes for Bridges

- Walkways
- Highways/Roads
- Railways
- Pipelines
- Connecting lands
- Crossing rivers and canyons





## **Range of Bridge Types**

- Arch
- Truss
- Cantilever
- Cable-Stayed
- Suspension













Cantilever bridges are typically supported on one side only. A cantilever bridge is a form of beam bridge





Two cantilevers can meet in the middle of a bridge connecting the two spans.































#### Examining, Paying Attention, Concentrating, Cooperating, Communicating, Manipulating...



#### What does STEM look like?



#### What makes learning memorable for adults?



Los Angeles STEM Institute: 42 Rulers/43 inches!







There are no limits to creative thinking (except the laws of physics)

















#### What makes a concept memorable?





Active learning experiences where the concept is personally discovered!



Working together at home or at school prepares young learners for working in the real world with others

#### Can you make cantilever bridges with pennies?



Make two rows of three pennies

#### Can you make cantilever bridges with pennies?



Stack two pennies on top of them

#### Can you make cantilever bridges with pennies?



#### Place one penny on top of them all (pyramid)



Place one more penny at either end and build a pyramid again



Add one more penny at either end. Turn the pennies at the end (over the edge) towards one another creating a "U-shape".







Front view of the penny cantilever bridge
# Where Can I See Cantilever Bridges in the Real World?



#### Where Can I See Cantilever Bridges in the Real World?







Take an old CD





- 1. Find a plastic bottle cap
- 2. Drill a small hole into its top.
- 3. Glue the bottle cap onto the CD.





Last, you will need a balloon (and maybe a balloon pump)





Fill the balloon with air and release it





#### **Cooking teaches:**

- Mathematics (counting, measuring, whole-parts, fractions)
- Science (chemistry, chemical reactions)
- Following directions (reading, sequence/procedures, logic, cause-and-effect)





You will need vinegar, baking soda and an empty bottle





You will need vinegar, baking soda, an empty bottle, a spoon, and a balloon





Placing the baking soda inside the balloon – a challenge. Cut of the top of a water bottle = funnel.





Placing the baking soda inside the balloon – a challenge. Cut of the top of a water bottle = funnel.



Placing the baking soda inside the balloon – a challenge. Cut of the top of a water bottle = funnel.







Turn the balloon upside down pouring the baking soda into the vinegar





#### Once your pour the baking soda into the vinegar $\rightarrow$ chemical reaction



#### Can Oil become a cloak of invisibility?



- 1. One pyrex beaker with water
- 2. One pyrex beaker: 1/2 water and 1/2 Wesson oil
- 3. One pyrex beaker with Wesson oil
- 4. 3 glass stirring rods
- 5. 3 pryex stirring rods



# Can Oil become a cloak of invisibility?





# Can Oil become a cloak of invisibility?





# Can Oil become a cloak of invisibility?



Light travels through vegetable oil and pyrex glass at the same rate of speed  $\rightarrow$  they have the same refractive index.



## Water waves (ocean waves model)

#### **NGSS: The Nature of Waves**



Wave-like motions Gamma waves Sound waves Radio waves Acoustic waves Gravitational waves Seismic waves Electromagnetic waves Longitudinal waves Surface wave

Water waves (ocean waves) Light waves Light waves Microwaves Tidal waves Brain waves Shockwaves Mechanical waves Transverse waves





You will need 3 vials, a cup of water, Alka seltzer, food coloring, a flashlight, and Wesson Oil (a tray)





2/3 vial of Wesson Oil





1/3 water filling up the vial





Add 12-15 drops of food coloring





Place <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tablet of Alka seltzer into each vial





Place <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tablet of Alka seltzer into each vial



## Making a Lava Lamp

#### Materials and ingredients:

- Wesson Oil
- Water
- Colored dye (three colors)
- Alka-Seltzer tablets
- Flashlight

#### **Procedure:**

Pour 1/3 water 2/3 oil into a container. Let the mixture settle. Pour 12-15 drops of colored dye into the container. Add ½ tablet of Alka-Seltzer.

## Making a Lava Lamp



## **Teaching Absorption At Home**





Materials: 5 plastic cups and 4 rolled-up paper towels **Procedure**:

- 1. Pour water and food coloring into each of three cups leaving 2 cups in between these cups empty
- 2. Place a rolled-up paper towel into each pair of adjacent cups (academic language)

## **Absorption**





Write down (or describe) your observations of the changes occurring

## Absorption





Write down (or describe) your observations of the changes occurring

- 1. What happened?
- 2. Why?

**Developing Early Literacy through Active Learning** 

**Reading comprehension skills that can be reinforced** during active STEM/science instruction:

- prediction
- clarifying
- making inferences
- summarizing
- activating background knowledge
- questioning
- imagery





# The Water in Our Environment Pollution: Understanding Parts Per Thousand



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## **Startling Facts**

- 25% of adults in the United States cannot understand their pay stub.
- 58% cannot determine the differences between two medical benefit options.
- □ 78% of adults in the United States cannot figure out how much interest is paid on a loan.
- 71% cannot figure how many miles per gallon their vehicle gets.

**55%** of adults in the United States cannot determine the correct dosage of liquid aspirin substitute to administer to their child, given a label with ages and weights.

From the 1992 NAAL, similar results for 2003 NAAL



#### **TYLENOL** (acetaminophen) - administered orally.

-phen o-phen min-o-phen a-min-o-phen cet-a-min-o-phen a-cet-a-min-o-phen

TABLE 4. Recommended pediatric dosing of acetaminophen by weight and age (adapted from reference 47, with permission)\*

WEIGHT		AGE <sup>A</sup>	DOSE <sup>B</sup> (MG)	SINGLE RECOMMENDED
LB	KG			
6-11	2.0 - 5.4	0-3 monthsc	40	200
12 - 17	5.5 - 7.9	4-11 months	80	400
18 -23	8.0 - 10.9	12 - 23 months	120	600
24-35	11.0 - 15.9	2-3 years	160	800
36-47	16.0 - 21.9	4-5 years	240	1200
48-59	22.0 -26.9	6-8 years	320	1600
60-71	27.0 - 31.9	9-10 years	400	2000
72-95	32.0 -43.9	11 years	480	2400

\* Refer to package label for more specific information related to dosing.

<sup>a</sup> For adults and children 12 years of age and older see Table 2.

<sup>b</sup> Doses may be repeated every 4 hours but not more than five times daily

#### The Internet – You Tube

## "Pollution"




#### Water Pollution

#### CINN U.S. +



# Michigan governor: Flint water crisis could affect 'many more' kids



By Mariano Castillo and Catherine E. Shoichet, CNN (1) Updated 10:23 PM ET, Wed January 27, 2016





# Water Pollution



# **Water Pollution**

Michigan Residents An Hour Away From Lake Huron Still Struggle To Find Clean Drinking Water

Mar 6, 2015 04:59 PM By Lecia Bushak









If this is what happened to the lead pipes underground, what is happening inside the bodies of young Flint children?



Materials for Investigating:

#### Polution in Our Environment



100 mL beakerTray100 mL cylinderWhite gravel100 mL waterSmall plastic cupsOptional: Time indicator tabs and Digital Camera /<br/>camera phone

# **Models: Pollution**



The pollution that we see



The pollution that we *don't* see until its damage may be irreversible

# Editorial



# Minds, Models, and Maps

By Kenneth Wesson

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

-Pablo Picasso

he solar system is too large to bring to school. Mammalian life cycles stretch well beyond the academic year, and tiny organisms are too small to examine closely. Prehistoric animals are, well, "prehistoric." However, the forever fascinating world of science from the massive to the minute, of today and of years long gone, opens immediately to all students by way of sketches, models, simulations, maps, and other visual learning devices. Collectively, they allow young learners to make cognitive leaps from the intangible to the comprehensible. learning. Once we "recognize" an object, separating image from name and the name from function becomes next to impossible. Vision is so central to factual certainty that our initial sensory impressions, and eventually our overall cognition, are validated by our eyesight. As we so often hear, children assure others that "I saw it with my own eyes!" underscoring a pinnacle in experiential confidence that cannot be humanly exceeded.

Visualizing is integral to reading for comprehension. To understand what they read, students must rely heavily on the "picture-making" mechanisms in the visual cortex in order to extract meaning from the text. The association cortex is charged with the task of making sense of the incoming visual information. Learners can only make sense of abstract information based on preexisting internal

(This issue of *Science and Children* received **the 2011** *Distinguished Achievement Award* recognizing it as **the Best** "**One-Theme Issue**" for an American Educational Journal in 2011)



Our Models of the Environment Being Impacted by 2 - 12 Parts /1000

- The back of the cup, represents a hillside including the soil that naturally *filters* liquids before they reach the *water table* underground.
- From the front view, the standing water = lake.
- Observational record-keeping: Take 2 digital photographs of each of the 6 models at 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25- 30- 45- and 60-minute intervals.

How do you conceptualize (chemical) relationships?

- 2 Parts per thousand
- 4 Parts per thousand
- **6** Parts per thousand
- 8 Parts per thousand
- **10 Parts per thousand**
- 12 parts per thousand



- Make predictions:
  - 1. Each dosage will appear "harmless" from the lake view for a while. Predict how many minutes will it take for your dosage to become visible in the "lake" to the naked eye? How many minutes for the other dosages (not yours) of 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12 parts/1,000?
  - 2. Which dosage will reach the lake first, last, or will they all take equal durations of time?
  - 3. Which dosage will pollute the lake the most?
  - 4. Begin your observational record-keeping (with a stopwatch and camera)



- We are going to create a model. (Discuss what a "model" is intended to do.)
- Number each translucent plastic cup with the number of drops/1000 ("dosage") placed into it the cup.
- Measure 100 mL of white aquarium gravel into a small beaker.
- Pour 50 mL of water into your translucent plastic cup. (20 drops per 1 mL of water)

#### Our Models of the Environment Being Impacted by 2 - 12 Parts/1000

Tilt the cup towards the side where the dosage is indicated until the top of the water is near the lip.
Push the gravel (with a spoon or fingers) towards the lip area to simulate an environment composed of a "hillside," "coast" (beach), and "lake."

• The dosage should be visible (from behind the hillside).



• After 30 mins., tilt the cup again to dislodge any evidence of residue observed on the top surface of the hillside.







**Observational Data – 5 Minutes** 

cross-comparison data



**Observational Data – 20 Minutes** 

cross-comparison data



cross-comparison data

**Observational Data – 30 Minutes** 



cross-comparison data

**Observational Data – 45 Minutes** 



**Observational Data – 60 Minutes** 



cross-comparison data

#### **Observational Data – 60 Minutes**



Students compare their water quality findings  $\rightarrow$  a discussion about environmental conditions

2 drops = dead insects
4 drops = dead mice and birds
8 drops = dead small mammals
12 drops = deformities in birds and mammals, abbreviated lifespans, increase in illnesses, fatal cancers, and premature deaths

Giving students the opportunity to engage in dialogue and discourse → discover answers for themselves (represents teaching in its most powerful form).





Eight children with terminal-limb deficiencies represent dozens with the same birth defect whose homes are clustered in a few Moscow neighborhoods contaminated by industrial pollution.



# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN™

#### **Drugs Contaminate Lake Michigan**

Prescription drugs have been found far from Milwaukee's sewage outfalls, suggesting the lake is not diluting the compounds as scientists expected

By Brian Bienkowski and Environmental Health News | Thursday, September 5, 2013 | 5





...not merely "academic problems" for the purpose of intellectual development, but global challenges to the very survival of our planet and our species. They will require new approaches, novel ideas, new solutions, and the complex merging of multiple disciplines.

#### WATER POLLUTION

Edited by Nuray Balkis



INTECH



#### JOHN P. SMOL



SECOND EDITION

() Blackwell

Second Edition Environmental Pollution HEALTH AND TOXICOLOGY

S.V.S. Rana





#### **Pollution: "Re-purposing" – Milk Cartons**













#### **Pollution: "Re-purposing" – Water Bottles**





#### **Houston Zoo**

#### **Pollution: "Re-purposing" – Water Bottles**





#### **Houston Zoo**



#### Why are recycling and re-purposing efforts important?



What happens to our discarded plastics?

#### **Re-purposing Old Furniture to Help His Arthritic Dog**



Your neighbors' dog is getting old and has arthritis. It is painful for him to bend his joints. What could you design and engineer to make life easier for their dog by reducing some of the daily bending?

### **Life Science**







# Life Science: Biology and Art



#### Life Science: Biology





Use a digital camera to capture different phases of plant growth.

#### **Creating a Digital Science Story**



Use a digital camera to capture different phases of plant growth.

#### Check student work for:

- 1. Content (scientific accuracy) as they describe the phases of growth
- 2. Creativity
- 3. Storyboard (significant events)
- 4. Photography/videography



### Limited Space?







#### **Life Science**

#### **Insect Body Parts and Structures**



A familiar subject from the real world

- Both teachers and children have had encounters with insects.
- All insects have certain characteristics in common.
- Insects are infinitely varied.


#### Given the Known Characteristics of Insects, Create a New Insect



#### Life Science and Writing (#1 Literary Genre: Science Fiction)









Write a story about "A Day in the Life of a \_\_\_\_\_ insect."



- Students can listen without thinking.
- They can sit without listening or thinking.
- We all can *read* without *thinking, concentrating or remembering* very much at all.

#### However,

- One <u>cannot</u> solve problems without thinking.
- One <u>cannot</u> *write* without thinking.
- One <u>cannot</u> *draw* without thinking.

(writing and drawing are how we make our thinking visible and actionable)





Students who lack ability . . .

to create visual images when reading, often experience comprehension difficulties.

They cannot describe the pictures in their minds as they read.

Learners who were instructed to create mental images of events...learned two to three times as much as learners who read aloud the sentences repeatedly. (Anderson, 1971)

## When Did Humans Start STEM/ STEAM ?

- Human beings were (and still are) engaged in STEM/ STEAM experiences before we had the new acronyms.
- All human advancements that we enjoy today depended on (1) an understanding of science – knowing (2) visualizing a method of problem solving (3) creating tools or processes to satisfy our human needs (and curiosities.)







**Design and Engineering** 



# **Goodwill Engineering Materials Engineering**



#### Materials Engineering Arguments and Evidence

 Our corporation, "STEM Games" will produce a new stress-relieving hover target game for California executives. We will need to identify the right (kind and size) ball that will float 8-10 inches (20-25cm) in mid-air (criteria) when placed above one of the five air vents on our air-blowing machines (below).







#### • Design challenge:

- Design a device that will allow you to test, measure and compare how high each of the eight different balls (below) will float in the air.
- 2. With your ball-suspension device, investigate the impact that forced air has on the distance that the eight different types of balls float in the air.





## **Design and Engineering**



Materials: 1. Shoebox



## **Design and Engineering**



Materials: 2. Old hair dryer 3. Duct tape



## **Materials Engineering**



#### Materials:

4. An assortment of (eight) balls of:

- different sizes
- composed of different materials
- different mass
- different weight



## **Materials Engineering**



## Materials: 5. Ruler 6. Graph paper





**Design and Engineering** 

# **Arguments and Evidence**

# Predict the <u>orde</u>r in which the 8 different types of balls will float from <u>highest to lowest.</u>



#### More Information/New Questions (Decision-making with data/information)

1. Smooth table tennis ball - 13 cm (cir.); 2.3 g

- 2. white dimpled plastic golf ball –
  14 cm (cir.); 7.3 g
- 4. Small white Styrofoam ball 7.5 cm (cir.); 0.2 g



6. Dimpled plastic-covered Styrofoam - 15.5 cm (cir.); 4.4 g

7. Large red plastic ball – 24 cm (cir.); 4.3 *g* 

8. Large white Styrofoam ball - 20 cm (cir.); 4.0 *g* 

5. Green smooth hollow rubber ball 15.5 cm (cir.); 4.4 *g* 

A. What orderB. Why?





**More Information/New Questions** 

#### **Arguments and Evidence: Qualia**

Attributes of the eight floating balls

- 1. Color
- 2. Circumference
- 3. Radius
- 4. Solid/perforated
- 5. Texture (Smoothness/
  - roughness of surface)

COM

BOOK

- 6. Composition (material)
- 7. Softness/hardness
- 8. Dimples
- 9. Other attributes?



#### Materials Engineering Arguments and Evidence

#### "We predict that ..."

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the highest because\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest because\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest because\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the 4<sup>th</sup> highest because\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the 5<sup>th</sup> highest because\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the 6<sup>th</sup> highest because\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the 7<sup>th</sup> highest because\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ will float the least because\_



#### **Materials Engineering**







## **Gravity & Balance: Floating in Mid-air?**

- Place the upper portion of a plastic bottle on the end of a hairdryer.
- The air stream is funneled into a smaller area → forced air moves faster.
- The fast-moving air moves around the surface of the ball → creating an area of lower air pressure.
- The air stream has more pressure than the air surrounding the ball and keeps the ball snuggled inside of the air stream → ball to reach a point of balance. The force of gravity pushing the ball down = the force of the air pushing the ball up from the hair dryer → the ball appears to float in mid air (Bernoulli's principle)



#### **Designing a Cardboard Slot Machine**

#### Everyone's a Winner at Maria's Slot Machine!

- You can win \$1.00 easily!
- Only 25¢ to play!



How would Maria design her slot machine so:

- 1. The game is a fair one?
- 2. Everyone wins?
- 3. Everyone loses?
- 4. Players can only win 10¢?
- 5. There are only occasional \$1.00 winners?
- 6. How could Maria calibrate win/loss ratios so she (the proprietor) doesn't lose \$\$? (write a research plan – focus groups; conduct experiments; modify the design; intermittent reinforcement studies, etc.)

## Play/STEM!

#### Designing a Charity Cardboard (Slot Machine) Game Game A Game B



Win \$1 50¢ 10¢

10¢ 50¢ Win \$1

If the holes on drop shelf #4 are all the same size, which game (A or B) would you want to play and why?

**Drop shelf #4** 

#### Designing a Charity Cardboard (Slot Machine) Game: Design of Shelf #4





## **Goodwill Engineering**

Garage sales, Thrift shops, Goodwill, basements, etc.

- **1.** Remove two parts and reassemble.
- 2. Remove four parts and reassemble.
- 3. Remove six parts and diagram, name the parts and illustrate the interior of the object.
- 4. Write assembly instructions (engineer) to re-assemble the six parts that were removed.
- 5. Remove all of the parts, draw the complete interior, write assembly instructions, and have another group reassemble entire device using your group's instructions

6. Test to see if the object is (still) operational! Did it work?

## Thinking, Problem-Solving, and Creativity

Our educational system in many ways continues to guide students through the same career preparation that was initially designed for *their parents* (assemblyline workers for the Industrial Age), rather than guided by current 21<sup>st</sup> century demands of the <u>Information Age Innovation Age.</u>







**Equity and Excellence** 

## Experience "Education, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men — the balance wheel of our social machinery."

-- Horace Mann





## **Science At Home**

- Investigating science at home creates experiences that literally change the brain.
- Like jazz: We know where it starts. We know when it will end. Everything in the middle is what the audience came for. What happens at the end helps us appreciate the connection to its beginning.
- Experiences have a life-long impact on our children, because their learning experiences will carry them forward for a lifetime!







Each year, new findings in cognitive psychology and neuroscience will be infused into teacher preparation, curriculum, instruction, student assessment, and the classroom environment. The works of **Howard Gardner** ("Multiple Intelligences"), Daniel Goleman ("Emotional Intelligence"), Kenneth Wesson ("Brainconsiderate Learning"), and others have already been influential in reshaping the independent school classroom, while programs like Mel Levine's Schools Attuned are assisting educators in using neurodevelopmental content in their classrooms to create success at learning and to provide hope and satisfaction for all students.

Forecasting Independent Education to 2025 --- NAIS



## Science At Home Is Where It Starts: Time-Life Books





#### A microscope for every child!



"Reflect and Connect"

#### "We don't *learn* from experience, we learn by *reflecting* on it." -- John Dewey

- What was the most valuable idea that you learned from this afternoon?
- Please write down 2 "I will statements": How will you use the information shared today at home or with your students on-line?

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