

PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC THINKING IN CHILDREN WITH MAGIC AND TOYS

Pongskorn Saipetch

Presenting Author: Pongskorn Saipetch (pongskorn.saipetch@gmail.com)
Mahidol University International College, Phutthamonthon Nakhon Pathom 73170, Thailand

ABSTRACT

Thinking scientifically is a useful skill to have for everyone. Here, we let children aged 7–15 practice this skill through various activities involving magic and toys. Magical acts are used to stimulate wonder and curiosity in children, training them to make observations, hypotheses, and tests. Toys induce fun and learning about relevant physical principles such as evolution, equilibrium and center of gravity, simple machines, conservation of momentum, conservation of angular momentum, and conservation of energy. Children 13–15 years old use the skill to investigate real-life issues such as perpetual motion schemes, vaccinations, and homeopathy.

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