

Title: Teaching Science with TOYS

Topic: Science Education

Keywords: using toys as scientific tools

Type: Workshop proposal on Education

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Abstract

Science is best understood by providing students with opportunities to make connections between their own world and scientific concepts. What's more natural than using toys as learning tools to teach science to elementary and middle school students? For teachers and students alike, toys can provide motivational and experiential links between science concepts and everyday experience. This workshop will demonstrate ways teachers can guide their students toward exploring and understanding these connections through fun, hands-on activities using inexpensive, readily available toys or common household objects.

Each activity was developed as part of the Teaching Science with TOYS program at Miami University, Ohio, and tested in the classroom by teacher participants. Activities are linked to the National Standards and are designed to provide a format for the investigating of basic concepts and to stimulate creative problem solving.