

# Making science more

# fun

Transforming informal learning activities into science teaching tools - three cases at science centres Technopolis, NEMO and Heureka

## Forensic Science with Children

Author: Halinka De Visscher, Project Manager Science Communication, Technopolis, Belgium

### 1. The objective of Technopolis® PENCIL project is:

- to familiarise children and teachers in an interactive and informal way with different scientific aspects of forensic science;
- to increase via an exciting story and hands-on experiments the attractiveness and relevance of studying science and technology.

The pilot project of Technopolis®, the Flemish science centre is: 'Who did it?' 'Who did it' consists of 3 complementary parts: a website, interactive exhibits, a workshop.



### 2. Common features:

- The teachers are partner in the learning process.
- The participants are carrying out hands-on experiments (doormat alarm, an exhibit, lab experiments ...).
- In all projects pupils are working towards a certain goal.

### 3. Recommendations:

- We suggest the 'Trojan horse technique'. Science itself is sometimes not appealing and people can even be afraid of science... That's why an appealing element or a tempting package is being used. Whether it is a good story used as a treat to make youngsters carry out experiments or well known objects such as a calendar which appear to be an interactive science communication tool.

More information: [www.technopolis.be](http://www.technopolis.be)



## Science Center at School

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Science centres fascinate their visitors with interactive exhibits. The *Science Center at School* project uses the same idea of teaching through fascinating. The target group are pupils aged 11/12 years in primary education

The project challenges pupils to design and create their own exhibits. An employee at a real science centre will be the principal for the construction of the exhibits. To round off the project the pupils will set up a science centre in their own school. They will present the results of their research into the science behind the exhibit.



### Learning by research and design

This project does not stand alone; it is part of a 'learning by research and design' programme. This was developed in collaboration with the AMSTEL Institute of the University of Amsterdam. The main objectives of *Science Center at School* are:

- encouraging an enquiring attitude to science and technology;
- acquiring technical skills;
- learning to work together in twos;
- learning to give presentations, both oral and in writing.

More information: [www.sciencecenteropschool.nl](http://www.sciencecenteropschool.nl) > go to 'english'.



## Chemistry for Primary Schools

Author: Kati Tyystjärvi, Senior Coordinator, Heureka, Finland

During the PENCIL-project, Heureka has developed five chemistry programmes used in the Children's Laboratory. The programmes are available on free-of-charge basis via Heureka's web sites [www.heureka.fi](http://www.heureka.fi)

- Bubbling Chemistry
- Colourful Chemistry
- Water Analysis
- Mineral Examination
- From Large to Small



The objectives of the project aim at raising children's interest in experimental natural science observations. The programmes emphasize the role of science centre laboratories and exhibitions as an open learning environment combining informal learning and formal school education.

More information: [www.heureka.fi](http://www.heureka.fi)



pencil

