

Context:
Rockets provocation

Nursery
Age 3-4

Title: Exploring rocket mice

Adult-led focus on comparative testing

Exploration of 'rocket mice', where a paper/card cone is placed on top of a plastic bottle and fired up/across. The teacher encouraged the children to explain their observations and thinking.

As can be seen from the annotations the class teacher asked the pupils a variety of open and closed questions, for example, 'which rocket was the best?' and 'what made it go far?' The teacher asked the pupils to explain their reasoning by asking them 'why?'



Which rocket was the best?
'Jude!'
Why?
'Because it went up in the air.'
What made it go far?
'When you bang it hard.'
What comes out of the bottle?
'Air' 'The mouse'.
What could we change if we do it again?
'Big mouse' 'Small mouse' 'Big bottles'.
Rabbit
Etc.

Later, the teacher encouraged pupils to reflect on their exploration, asking: 'if we do this again what could we try?'

The pupils responded with a variety of answers including using a bigger/smaller milk bottle or a bigger/smaller mouse, demonstrating they are beginning to understand cause and effect. Some children also suggested using a real space rocket.

Learning outcome (Curriculum for Wales):

Progression step 1: I can explore the environment, make observations and communicate my ideas.

Example from Marlborough Primary, Cardiff