

Professional Development Situation: Meeting**Skill Focus: Connecting Prior Knowledge and Experiences****Time Required: 30 minutes**

CONNECTING TO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE WITH AN IDEA WALK

Participants will do an idea walk in order to add more opportunities for youth to connect their prior knowledge to STEM activities.

Agenda

Idea Walk—25 minutes

- Learn about Density with Plastics Activity

Conclusion—5 minutes

Materials

- Four pieces of chart paper and markers

Before the Session

- **Read this meeting guide** to become familiar with the content and allow time to personalize the activities to best suit your presentation style. Watch all videos and read informational materials.
 - *Italics indicate text that can be read aloud or emailed to participants.*
- Send a reminder email about the meeting. Determine if any participants require accommodations (sight; hearing; etc.).
 - *The next professional development opportunity to enhance our STEM skills will be on DATE at TIME at LOCATION. Our focus for this session will be “Connecting to Prior Knowledge and Experiences”. Let me know if you require any accommodations to participate in the training. I am happy to answer any*

questions you have and look forward to seeing you at the workshop. I can be reached at CONTACT INFO.

- Gather all materials needed for the session.
- Prepare four posters, one that says each of the following:
 - *What was written in the activity that made STEM relevant to youth's daily experiences?*
 - *What else would you add to make STEM relevant to youth's daily experiences in this activity?*
 - *What do you use in your own STEM activities to make STEM relevant to youth's daily experiences?*
 - *Why do you think it is important to make sure that STEM is relevant to youth's daily activities?*
- Develop a list of all possible questions participants might have during the meeting. Create potential responses to be explored through informal conversation. Review any key terms or ideas that may be unclear.
- On the day of the meeting, test the audio and video equipment.

Session Outline

Idea Walk (25 min)

- Welcome participants to the meeting. Explain the purpose of the meeting: to help everyone feel more confident in making STEM activities relevant to youth's daily experiences.
- Hang the four posters around the room.
- Divide participants into groups of four. Give each participant a copy of [Plastics Density](#) (courtesy of North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to review.
 - *You are now going to read this activity and think about how you could tie your youths' backgrounds to the activity. As a group, you'll talk about it and then write your thinking on each poster. Everyone will start at one poster and I will tell you when to switch.*
- Give groups time to work at each poster giving a one-minute warning.
 - **Note:** As groups go to their third and fourth poster, they will be looking at other participants' ideas already written there. Encourage them to respond to ideas already on the posters or to "star" ideas that they really like.
- After each group has had a chance at each poster, bring the participants back together.

Conclusion (5 min)

- Go from poster to poster and **read** the ideas aloud. Ask groups if they want to **respond** to any of the ideas on the posters. Help moderate the conversation in order to help participants connect their talk to the program's needs.
- Ask the room to think about their experience with the idea walk.
 - *Is an idea walk something that you could use to help youth bring in their everyday experiences?*

After the Session

- Email the participants:
 - *Thank you for your participation in the recent Click2Science training on "Connecting to Prior Knowledge and Experiences". I hope you found it useful and applicable to your practice. Consider sharing your thoughts with a co-worker, supervisor, or friend. Please let me know if you have any questions. You can reach me at CONTACT INFO.*

Want to Earn Credit? Click2Science has teamed up with Better Kid Care to provide continuing education units. Check it out at: <http://www.click2sciencepd.org/web-lessons/about>