MyScience is a primary school science and technology program, providing support through the establishment of a sustainable model of collaboration between schools, industry/business and university sectors. It aims to stimulate interest and enhance capacities of primary science teachers and students in conducting authentic scientific investigations.

MyScience is a foremost initiative to bring together a range of key aspects of exemplary primary science and technology education into a profoundly integrated program. Drawing on and generating extensive research, the critical elements comprising MyScience are:

- Collaborative professional learning for primary teachers
- Clear achievement criteria
- Promoting and supporting scientific investigation amongst students
- Mentoring of students by practising scientist experts
- Acknowledgement and recognition of achievements.

Other keystone elements that have supported the program are:

- An empowering structure and support for primary teachers to effectively teach science and technology
- Purposeful and hands-on investigating for teachers and students
- Student interest and ownership, building from guidance to freedom to select their own areas for investigating
- Using science as a context for teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy

MyScience is part of the ACUgate (ACU Gain Access to Education) suite of programs that aims to raise student awareness of the higher education learning environment through collaborative relationships between University representatives, teachers, parents and community members.

For more information please contact:
Equity Pathways National Office
Phone: (03) 9953 3000

www.myscience.com.au
Benefits of Participation

NSWIT Endorsed Professional Development for Teachers

MyScience has been endorsed by NSW Institute of Teachers as registered professional development for elements 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the professional teaching standards at Professional Competence level. The MyScience program begins with teacher professional development in authentic scientific investigation including aspects of experimental design, data collection and analysis, and scientific reporting.

After participating in MyScience, primary teachers reported that:

- they are more aware of the concept continuum associated with Investigating Scientifically
- they prefer to learn about the theory behind scientific concepts
- they are more confident assessing student learning using ICT
- they are happy to facilitate learning with students and not be the expert
- group work is the most effective way for students to learn the skill of Investigating Scientifically
- a school display is the best way to showcase all student work
- they believe that student discussion while working is a necessary part of learning
- they feel more confident about teaching their students how to Investigate Scientifically.

MyScience Professional Development is conducted by the School of Education NSW which is a NSW Institute of Teachers’ endorsed provider of Institute Registered professional development for maintenance of accreditation at Professional Competence. Scope of endorsement is for Elements 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Professional Teaching Standards at Professional Competence.

Supporting Students through Hands-on Investigations

As a result of participating in MyScience, primary students:

- experience increased success in conducting and presenting valid and reliable scientific investigations in authentic and personally interesting contexts
- experience increased interest in and understanding of science and technology
- gain an improved understanding of the work of scientists and/or how an understanding of science and technology are useful for life and for many careers.

Student comments:

"I enjoyed being part of the MyScience program because..."

"I got to meet scientists from uni and it was fun."

"It is fun to do the experiments and watch what happens."

"Knowing some science is useful because understanding can help you figure things out. Recognising science is useful because we can do experiments relating to what we have seen. MyScience helped me with both of these things."

Support from Scientist Mentors

Teachers are supported by Mentor Scientists from the business or industry sectors to assist in building their personal knowledge and understanding of science underpinning students’ topics. By sharing their expertise, they are able to inspire student interest in science and enhance appreciation of its presence in everyday life. The collaborative work between teachers and students makes it possible to tailor support to meet students’ interests, knowledge and abilities. Through group discussions, they facilitate students’ understanding of the scientific nature of tasks, especially in areas such as fair testing, critical thinking, scientific method and teamwork. This enables students to reinforce the strengths of their ideas for investigations as well as explore areas for development.

"Nothing inspires students into the field of Science more than doing their own experimentation. If they get the opportunity to get involved in an original investigation then they will be hooked for life."

Scientist Mentor

"The mentors were excellent. They showed the children in my room many ways to report their results and helped them to solve problems that came up during the project”

Primary Teacher

Learning scaffold....

CowsMooSoftly

Change ONE thing
Measure something
Keep everything else the Same