

Raising aspirations, attitudes and achievement

RA3 Author planning sheet

Theme: Eco Footprints

Context:

This project aims to use practical activities to stimulate families to discuss their ecological footprint. Using the idea of measurements and functional as well as creative design the activities bring together families to think about how their lives at home can have a serious impact on the environment as a whole. "Think globally, act locally" philosophy.

Objectives:

By taking part in the practical learning activities adults and children will:

- Be stimulated to consider their impact of their actions socially and environmentally
- Acquire new skills , knowledge and understanding in science and technology
- Have opportunities to speak and present their ideas
- Be more comfortable and confident to work as a family unit
- Feel supported by their local schools and community
- Reflect on their learning and attitudes towards science and technology

Challenge:

Families are going to be challenged to audit their every day lives for two weeks wrt their eco footprints. The challenge is at first to measure their eco footprint over a period of one week. The second challenge being to reduce their family footprint over the second week of auditing.

There are resource sheets to accompany all activities be it home work for example recording amounts of water used or designing and making an eco game using families' design skills and creativity. There is scientific experimentation, artistic creativity and design skills involved over the three weeks of RA3 evenings.

Feedback:

Families are actively invited to give feedback to authors on the success of the unit and submit suggestions for improvement. Activities that have been developed can be made available on the RA3 website for example 2D Design template for card board, ice-cube model house activity. The family learning groups will be asked to reflect on and assess their learning and consider how this project has impacted on them. Each week large, colour coded footprints displaying the amounts of waste produced or water used will be displayed as an outcome that the group can discuss together.