

Experience Mars on Earth

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Abstract

Children of today do get a lot of information on natural and planetary science. There are many experiments, books and even TV-shows which reach out for a child's brain. But children often do not achieve a real understanding of what they have just seen, read or even done. In the beginning of natural science people observed phenomena on earth and in the sky and tried to describe and explain them. In this way they reached their understanding of what they saw.

Personal interaction combined with visual and practical explanation, outdoor experiences and a personal guidance through scientific experiments made of material of every day life and therefore for children reachable material are the keywords to rise and keep children's interest in natural science and establish a real and lasting knowledge of their experiences during scientific classes and their own further research at home.

On this base I have developed an educational concept which consists of three main sections:

1. outdoor experience,
2. visual, practical and verbal theory,
3. scientific experiments (everyday life material).

As in reality the children work in little scientific groups and furthermore learn to develop social skills which are very important in the field. Children are very attached to planetary science and it suits excellent to understand interdisciplinary (physical, geological,...) phenomena on earth as well as on other planets. For this reason it is very appropriate to introduce the concept with regard to an earth-like planet.



Figure 1: Europlanet logo