

## **Let's be planetary scientists !**

**Yaël Nazé**

(1) Institute of Astrophysics and Geophysics, Department AGO, Allée du 6 Août 17, Bat B5C, B4000-Liège, Belgium  
(naze@astro.ulg.ac.be / Fax: +32-4-366-9746)

### **Abstract**

The best way to make kids understand science is to let them try... I will present a few tested examples of planet-related activities, especially focusing on three of them. "The quest for new planets" is related to exoplanets. It proved that even small kids can understand the concepts of center-of-mass, and find planets using transit or astrometry searches. In "Revolutions in the Solar System", they become scientists getting pictures of a planet, and they learn of the similarities and differences between the objects of the Solar System. With "Design of a space mission towards Mars", the secondary school kids learn of the constraints of space travel and devise their own mission. These activities are not 100