

2015 Bayer Facts of Science Education Survey

Key Findings

KIDS ARE EXCITED ABOUT SCIENCE

Parents say that kids are significantly more excited about science than any of the other core subjects -- English, math or social studies



Four in five parents (79%) say their child speaks positively about science

85% of teachers say girls are just as interested in science as boys

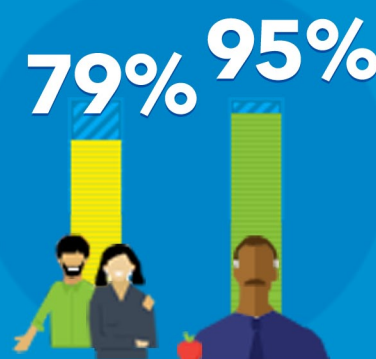


HANDS-ON LEARNING IS EFFECTIVE

95% of teachers and 79% of parents believe hands-on activities are the most effective way for students to learn science



More than two-thirds of teachers (69%) use hands-on activities most often to teach science to their students



According to teachers, the greatest advantages of hands-on science are that it appeals to different types of learners (73%), makes complex information more relatable to students (67%) and makes the subject more exciting (66%)



TIME AND MONEY ARE THE BIGGEST BARRIERS TO HANDS-ON SCIENCE

Eighty-five percent of teachers would dedicate more instructional time to hands-on science-based learning if given the opportunity, but are prevented due to lack of time because of other educational priorities (80%) and lack of funds (49%)

The barriers are the same for parents -

they say they are prevented from enjoying more hands-on science activities with their child because they don't have enough time (59%) or because it costs too much money (25%)



To increase hands-on science learning, teachers say they need opportunities to get out of the classroom (44%), access to outside science experts or speakers (43%) and more professional development or training opportunities (42%)



SCHOOLS SHOULD PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON SCIENCE

61% of teachers believe schools should place more emphasis on science education

Nearly all teachers (94%) agree hands-on learning in general is a valuable strategy for improving standardized test scores and overall performance

Six in ten parents

do not feel there is a greater emphasis on getting a good science education today, compared to when they were young



SCIENCE LEARNING AT HOME

85% of parents enjoy helping their children with hands-on science activities

Nearly two-thirds of parents would like their child's teacher to provide take-home science activities at least once a week

However, 31% of parents don't feel confident enough in their scientific knowledge to help their children engage in hands-on science activities



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