

Joyful Astronomy Learning in Primary Level with Low cost Materials

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Fraknoi (1996) has pointed out that astronomy education takes place outside the classroom by astronomy clubs conducted by amateur astronomers. These are the voluntary in character for both students as well as public. If astronomy is included in school curriculum as the science subjects then we can assure that most of the population will eventually be exposed to the core concepts and skills of astronomy. Through a combination of school and public education, astronomy becomes part of a national culture. For centuries astronomy was a core subject in public education. So, why astronomy will not be included in school curriculum? In the classroom, astronomy provides a useful alternative to the experimental mode in the scientific method; the observational mode. This paper tries to touch the primary school level astronomy education as joyful learning with some examples. Every child hears some myths about the earth's only natural satellite, the moon. From that very point their curiosity about sky must be nurtured carefully. When they look at the moonlit night after school hours they need help to know exact information about the object. Here the books may help, TV programs and internet may help. If astronomy is taught properly one can easily get interested in this subject. If the curriculum includes some simple activity plans, it will be attractive. This paper is derived from an individual project 'Learn Simple, Learn More' which tries to guide the primary school students with low cost materials. We explain astronomical events with some low-cost handmade models and students become more curious. They are learning to question when they are asked to participate in the workshop for making models by those materials which they know as 'wastes'.

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