

Educating Future Scientists at Preschool

Students worked with Parents
Cooperative Pre-school (PCP)
Teachers to Develop Science
Activities

Fall 2019



Bullet points about impact

- Point 1 Students learned how to break down a big idea into smaller, simpler ones.
- Point 2 Teachers learned more about physics and students learned more about how to teach physics.
- Point 3 Students practiced professionalism and soft skills like communication.



PROJECT PURPOSE AND RESULTS

Parents Cooperative Preschool (PCP) in Fort Atkinson is a non-profit, state-licensed preschool serving young children and their families. The school offers quality educational experience while giving parents direct involvement with the program. The main reason why we chose to work with PCP is due to the innovative approach for science education curriculum they practice.

The teachers indicated interest with new physics activities and UWW students developed these activities presenting to their peers and to the teachers. Students visited teachers, observed preschool environment and provided new science activities at each level (2K, 3K & 4K) by getting feedback from the teachers. School director, Dr. Raub, visited UWW students in class, provided feedback regarding how young children learn and reminded the students of the potential benefits of this project. Simplification of experiments and the presentation of a complex concept at preschool level, communication, time management and transportation were challenges for students. Despite all these challenges, the students successfully completed and presented their projects and experienced hands-on application of their coursework.

Course Offering Information

This course was just the beginning of a partnership between UWW and PCP. The partnership will continue and develop through other CBL projects with PCP. This course is offered every fall semester but the partnership can be expanded to other physics courses.