



From the gallery: the children have equipped the scooter made during the «invent ...» section with a remote control.

## Magic?

Most of us take technical means of transportation for granted. Only when the train stands still or the car doesn't start do we start to wonder what makes these vehicles move. What forces get us around? Who is going to explain that to fifth graders? explore-it!

## Learning material: «Energy For Mobility»

The materials are delivered by post. Further instructions and photos are available on the internet. Each learning material is divided into three sections. «explore...», «invent...», «and more...» In «Energy For Mobility» the students first use the «explore...» section to build a lightweight vehicle. In this manner they explore a scientific phenomenon: How do friction, drag and weight act on a vehicle on an incline? With this «instrument» the students can carry out experiments relating to elastic and electrical energy. Every student gets to keep the vehicle they have made and they can take them home. The knowledge gained in these experiments is used to innovative effect in the «invent» section. Some submitted work will be put on display in our gallery, in order to inspire others to further development of the themes addressed. The «and more...» section explores applications of the technology in everyday life. The students learn for example how braking can be used as a way to generate energy.

So that children can «explore...»

[www.explore-it.org](http://www.explore-it.org)

«**explore-it**» is a charitable research and development project funded by the Teacher Education College in the Canton of Wallis (PHVS) and the Teacher Training College at the University of Northwest Switzerland (FHNW).

# explore-it



...explore,  
invent,  
and more.

explore-it develops learning opportunities in order to promote understanding of technology, science and innovation in children aged 9 years and upwards.



## Promoting an Understanding of Technology

Technology is an important element of our culture which shapes our times and influences our future.

By engaging with technology, children and young people can graduate from the role of a consumer of technology and gain an independent, innovative and critical perspective on the technological world. This is mainly possible through active engagement with technical objects and the underlying scientific phenomena. Elements of technological history ethical issues, insights into the future but above all a creative and experimental way in to the topics offer a large field of teaching possibilities.

Engagement with technology is required in all curricula. This can be taught in cross-curricular units in conjunction with other subjects, for example the first language.

## ...and encourages

Many teachers know children are very interested in the subject of technology.

However, it can be difficult to find appropriate teaching materials. There often isn't the time or the expertise to deal with the themes adequately. When there are also problems finding suitable and affordable work and experimental materials, other less effort intensive topics are often selected for teaching.

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materials!

### Feedback:

*One father reports:  
My daughter is excited about this subject. She showed me and explained to me all the experiments.*

*One student review:  
It's amazing that you can make a real motor with so few materials - wow!  
It would be great if we did more work like that.*

*An overview: A perfect deal!  
This offer is the only way I've found it possible to handle the subject of technology in school.*

*Christina Lehner  
primary school teacher, Lengnau*

Topics from all applications and research areas are possible.

«Explore-it» offers further education courses for teachers and others.

Further information is available at:  
[www.explore-it.org](http://www.explore-it.org).

On the website there is also the facility to order explore-it-boxes containing all materials for two children. Explore-It

*explore-it*

...Helps teachers to provide first-hand learning experience to their children

...Consistently applies new information technologies

...Used low-cost everyday materials

...Promotes sustainability and allows developmental learning