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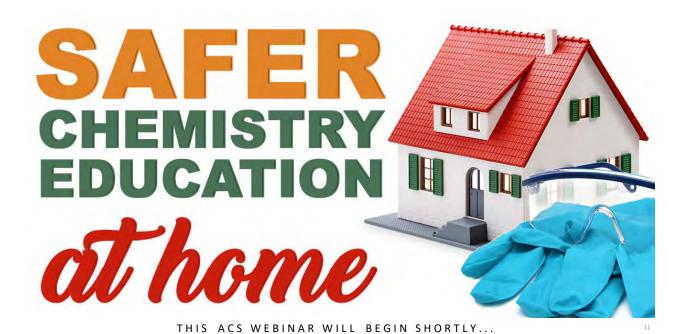
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Safer Chemistry Education at Home



Ralph Stuart

Chemical Hygiene Officer, Keene State College, Chair of
the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety, and
Membership Chair, ACS Division of Chemical Health



Jennifer Bishoff
Assistant Professor,
Frostburg State University



Debbie Decker Safety Manager for the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Davis

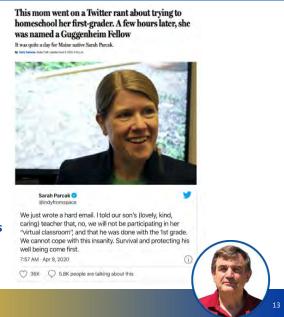
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The Chemical Education Challenge at Home

- There are many resources built into educational laboratories that aren't available at home
 - Well Ventilated Work Areas
 - Emergency Equipment (sprinklers, spill kits, PPE)
 - Waste Disposal Protocols and Materials
- Chemistry education is not a "do it yourself" effort:
 - Professional chemistry expertise does not necessarily smoothly transfer to chemical education at home.
 - Teachers build their curriculum around NGSS rather than current science practice
- With this in mind, this is an opportunity to redesign hands on chemical education that takes place in the home for both learning and safety purposes.



Next Generation Science Standards

- Many states use NGSS in curriculum planning and mapping
- NGSS is not very prescriptive in terms of content, especially chemistry
- Each standard, or "performance expectation" is combined from three dimensions intended to build a cohesive understanding of science throughout the K-12 experience



The Three Dimensions of NGSS

Crosscutting Concepts

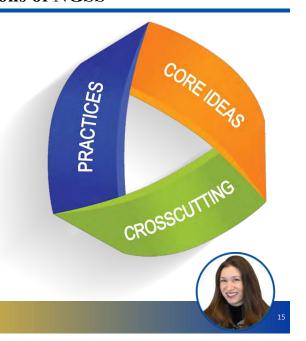
These have applications across all sciences and "they provide an organizational schema for interrelating knowledge from various science fields into a coherent and scientifically-based view of the world." (nextgenscience.org)

Science and Engineering Practices

"The practices describe behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and the key set of engineering practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems." (nextgenscience.org)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

Physical, Life, Earth/Space, or Engineering/Tech



How does chemistry fit into NGSS?

Physical Sciences has four main Disciplinary Core Ideas

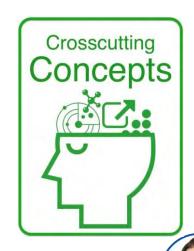
- PS1: Matter and Its Interactions
 - PS1.A—Structure and Properties of Matter
 - PS1.B—Chemical Reactions
 - PS1.C—Nuclear Processes
- PS2: Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- PS3: Energy
 - PS3.D—Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life
- PS4: Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer
 - PS4.A—Wave Properties



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What Does This Mean for Home Chemistry?

- A strict focus on content may not be necessary
- Broader focus on Crosscutting Concepts and Science and Engineering Practices could be helpful without requiring parents/guardians to re-learn high school chemistry!
- This can also help prepare students with skills to continue in their next science class...whether at home, in K-12 school, or in college



17

Let's Focus On...



Crosscutting Concepts

- Patterns
- Cause and Effect
- Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
- Systems and System Models
- Energy and Matter
- Structure and Function
- Stability and Change



Let's Focus On...

Science and Engineering Practices

- · Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
- · Developing and using models
- · Planning and carrying out investigations
- · Analyzing and interpreting data
- · Using mathematics and computational thinking
- · Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
- · Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information



What Are Some Resources to Help Us Teach at Home?

ACS and AACT have a variety of resources to help at-home chemistry instruction:

- For K-8 Students:
 - At-Home Activities for K-8 Students
 - · This source includes activities on density, temperature, kinetics, and more
 - Activities include simple, kitchen-based ingredients
 - Middle School Chemistry Website
 - ACS Elementary and Middle School Resources
- For High School Students:
 - The Chemistry Close Read is a great way to focus on skills other that pure chemistry content
 - ACS High School Chemistry Education Resources
- ACS Page for <u>Chemistry Education Resources</u> contains some of the links above, but also allows you to search by topic, such as the Earth, Water, or Food
- On the AACT website, search for "unlocked resources" for more at-home help

Audience Challenge Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



What level of at-home chemistry are you involved in teaching or facilitating?

- Elementary school
- Middle school
- High school
- College / University
- This question is not applicable to me

* If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

Safety Concerns With Home Chemistry Education

Multiple perspectives:

- Safety Manager in the Chemistry Department at an R1 institution, supervising undergraduate laboratory teaching staff;
- · School Board Trustee; and
- · Grandparent of school aged children learning at home.

Multiple types of science education going on at home

- · Undergraduate chemistry laboratory teaching
- · High school/Middle school science
- · Elementary school science



The Challenge of Undergrad Labs

- The University of California Davis approach online "virtual" laboratories – intent is for virtual labs to be temporary through our summer sessions
 - Early on, decided against sending kits home with students sheer numbers of students (and the attendant potential liability) precluded that
- Institutions with smaller enrollment may be able to move handson labs from on-site to home or they may have guidance already in place for home labs
- UC Davis has a strong commitment to continuing hands-on laboratory instruction for general chemistry, once the pandemic resolves





The Challenge of Virtual Undergraduate Labs

- The unspoken goals of undergraduate laboratory education
 - Use a match
 - Glassware
 - Rulers and other simple measurement tools
 - Differences between measuring solids and liquids and the units associated with each
 - Basic understanding of safety concepts and comfort with wearing PPE
 - An exploratory and questioning attitude important not only in laboratory coursework but to be able to think critically about safety concerns

General Chemistry requirements are foundational to follow-on STEM coursework. There's an expectation students coming from General Chemistry have these basic skills and attitudes.

We can teach students the content virtually and show them video of the experiments. But how do we provide students with the hands-on, muscle memory piece critical to experiential learning?







The Challenges of K-12 Science Education

- The School Board perspective: Teaching Science Safely in the classroom and at home

 means attempting to manage the liability risks for school districts. Equity of access
 needs to be assured for students who may not have the support or resources at home
 to accomplish science activities. WiFi access is not universal, even with a hotspots
 provided. The digital divide for students attempting to learn at home places students at
 a further disadvantage who may already be disadvantaged.
 - Technical assistance for parents and teachers is available in the community through local sections and ACS divisions. These organizations are ready to help recruit and develop volunteers for local school districts.
- Opportunities and challenges of EHS outreach to chemistry educators time in the teaching schedule – pacing guides, standards to accomplish, horizontal and vertical articulation
- **Distance learning chemistry experience policies based on kits** (e.g. Penn State's Guidance For Performing Remote Teaching Or Research From Home)



25

The Challenge of K-12 Science Education

Parent involvement and oversight of science education at home is important. Parents need to understand what teachers are wanting their students to accomplish or what your kids are planning to do. Encourage your kids to write a hypothesis and a procedure, do a hazard/risk assessment, and describe materials needed. Middle/high school students could do this on their own. For younger students, this is the opportunity to teach them these concepts.

Some ideas might include:

- DIY home chemistry: hand sanitizers; making face masks; cleaning solutions
- Commercial chemistry demonstrations and kits: Carolina Biological and Flinn Scientific are two options
- Emulating amateur videos: Let's try this at home, but do a risk assessment first!





Safety Considerations for Science Education at Home

- Kitchen: Try not to let the kids do anything in the kitchen that couldn't otherwise be eaten
 or applied to the skin. Use food grade materials when possible. Potential hazards include
 burns, cuts, or spills.
- A good way to demonstrate weights and measures is by cooking and using recipes to teach material manipulation. Gloves and safety eyewear could be used for students to become accustomed to working wearing PPE.

These are lab skills, too, and can help build valuable muscle memory.

- **Garage:** A sink and a work bench are optimum. Using hand tools or power tools should be supervised and always with proper PPE safety eyewear, for sure.
- Outside: Could use more hazardous materials or activities. Launching rockets or doing chemistry activities that might involve extremes of temperature. A hazard/risk assessment or "What if?" analysis is an important learning. Proper PPE should be worn.

27

Science Education at Home – An Example

Fun with Dry Ice:

Dry ice is a **readily available**, **easily handled material** that can be used to illustrate a number of concepts, discussed in Jennifer's presentation. **Temperature extremes**, **phase changes**, **gas production**, **etc.**

But dry ice is not without hazards. Because it's extremely cold, handling it with bare hands or thin gloves is risky. **Using leather** gloves or a thick mitt is best. Best is to handle with tongs or a tool.

Off gassing carbon dioxide, as the dry ice sublimes, **could create an oxygen deficient atmosphere**, particularly indoors or in a basement location.

Disposal of dry ice can also be problematic. Attempting to wash it down a sink drain could result in failure of the drain due to temperature extremes on the plumbing material or gas expansion within plumbing.





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Sample K-8 Idea

Engineering a Flotation Device

https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resour ces/k-8/inquiryinaction/fifth-grade.html

Objective

Students will design, test, modify, and optimize a device that uses a chemical reaction to produce enough gas to inflate a bag to make a cell phone float.

Students learn about and use the engineering design process to develop a device that uses a chemical reaction to make a cell phone float.



Engineering a Floatation Device

Lesson Plan: Engineering a Cell Phone Floatation Device Student Activity Sheet

Additional Materials Student Reading Teacher Background Connections to NGSS

Safety

Make sure you and your students wear properly fitting safety goggles. Citric acid is an eye irritant. Read and follow all safety warnings on the label.

Materials for Each Group

• Goggles • Citric acid • Cream of tartar • Baking soda • Water • 2 Small clear plastic cups • Liquid dish detergent • Dropper • Graduated cylinder • Measuring spoons (1/2 tsp, 1/4 tsp, and 1/2 tsp) • Snack size, zip-closing plastic bag



Sample High School Idea

Twizzler Half-Life

https://teachchemistry.org/classroomresources/twizzler-half-life

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to understand what a half-life is.

Chemistry Topics

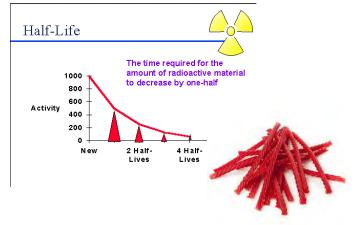
This lesson supports students' understanding of Half-life and radioactive decay

Materials

2 pieces of licorice

Safety

- Food in a lab should be treated as a chemical and not consumed.
- If you allow students to consume the licorice after the activity, make sure to complete the activity away from a lab setting, chemicals, or other harmful materials. Have students handle their own licorice.



Audience Challenge Question

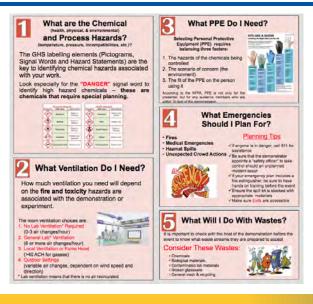
ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



Which home chemistry exercise presents the greatest safety concern to you?

- DIY chemistry products such as disinfectants
- Freelancing exploration
- Emulation of YouTube chemistry influencers
- · Repurposing of retail chemicals
- Other (Let us know more in the chat)

Key ACS Resources for Safe Home Chemistry Education



- Five Key Questions for Safe Research and Demos: https://inchemistry.acs.org/content/inchemistry/en/coll ege-life/five-key-questions-for-safe-research-anddemos.html
- Demonstration and video safety rubric at https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/chemical-safety/teach-and-learn/safer-demonstrations.html
- Pointers to Web resources from ACS Safety Program and the American Association of Chemistry Teachers

https://teachchemistry.org/about-us/unlockedresources

^{*} If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

Example Safety Considerations for Home Chemistry

	Ventilation	Housekeeping	Waste disposal
Kitchen	Likely to be able to manage nuisance odors	Critical to maintain family safety and health	Drain disposal is available but should be carefully considered, both for corrosions and reactions in the plumbing
Outdoors	Ventilation is freely available	A manageable concern with standard household chemicals	Airborne chemicals are quickly dissipated; protect neighbors, vegetation and wildlife
Garage or basement or workshop	Limited ventilation can be a significant problem (e.g. cleaning solution incidents)	Less critical than in the kitchen, but still a consideration	Planning is required to control contamination

A More Comprehensive Set of Considerations



The ACS Safety Rubric provides a guide for critically assessing Chemical Demonstration Videos. It is designed to be used to compare two well-defined options, not to say that any one demonstration or video is "safe enough to use at home".

It addresses both educational and safety elements based on the RAMP system. Specifically, it addresses:

Pedagogy

- · Concepts and skills
- Appropriate ages

Safety

- Recognizing Hazards
- Assessing Hazards
- Managing Safety
- · Preparing for Emergencies and Protecting the Environment



The Classic Elephant's Toothpaste Demonstration



Edited version of https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9LltsBy1g4



Audience Challenge Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



Would you do the *Elephant's Toothpaste Demo* at Home in the way that the Video Demonstrates?

- Yes, they use best practices in the video
- Yes, but I would want to make some changes in their process
- Yes, but I would not allow minors to do this demonstration
- No, I don't believe that this demonstration has enough educational value
- No, I don't have the appropriate facilities at home

^{*} If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

Assessing this Video

Educational Concepts introduced:

- The role of catalysts in chemical reactions
- Movement of fluids as related to the shape of container
- Further reasons to study more chemistry

Recognize Hazards:

Identifies chemical hazards and concentrations – O₂ and 30% H₂O₂ Identifies process hazards - heat and pressurized gases

Assessing Risks:

Focus on specific hazards during the process (heat, skin exposures)

Managing Safety:

Ventilation; Personal Protective Equipment; Crowd management

Planning for Emergencies:

Working outdoors reduces risks and provides controls temperature and off-gassing concerns

Potential Safety Discussion Questions:

- How hot does the foam get?
- Is that dangerous?
- What are the wastes of this demonstration and what is an appropriate clean up protocol?
- What happens if you do this inside?





Further ACS Resources and For Follow up

- AACT open teaching resources for high school lesson plans at https://teachchemistry.org/about-us/unlocked-resources
- ACS Chemical Safety Resources at http://www.acs.org/safety
- ACS Education Video Series on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/user/AmerChemSoc/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=19
- Playing with Fire: Chemical Safety Expertise Required, Samuella B. Sigmann https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jchemed.8b00152
- Other questions or comments? E-mail us at membership@dchas.org and we'll ask the DCHAS-L for help.



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Membership Chair, ACS Division of Chemical Health



Jennifer Bishoff Assistant Professor, Frostburg State University



Debbie Decker
Safety Manager for the Department of
Chemistry at the University of California, Davis

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