CSIC at School

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NATIONAL 2016 EDUCATION AWARD FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC, HUMANISTIC AND ARTISTIC VOCATIONS







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The CSIC at school team

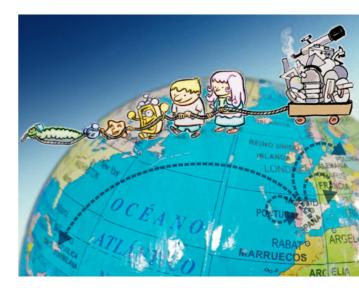


PRESENTATION

CSIC at School (El CSIC en la Escuela) is a national and international programme of the Spanish National Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, or CSIC) aimed at bringing scientists and teachers together to introduce science teaching from the earliest educational stages.

As a result of this collaboration, we have created a community of professionals from the worlds of education and science through which scientific knowledge is transmitted according to the pedagogical criteria required by each cognitive stage.

We also investigate teaching methods to improve the quality of science teaching in light of new trends (STEM -Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics-, NOS -Nature of Science-, NOSI -Nature of Science Inquiry-); and we carry out social events to communicate science where teachers and students are the main actors.



El CSIC en la Escuela

OUR ACTIVITIES

I. Science training for teachers of children aged 3 to 14

Spain follows other Western countries with regard to the point at which scientific content is introduced into the Primary and Pre-school curriculum. However, the training of teachers for these stages has not been adapted to this reality. It is therefore necessary to provide teachers with a specific core of scientific knowledge, in terms of both content and method, so they can face these new challenges in their professional lives.

Since 2000, *CSIC at School* has been providing teachers of Pre-school, Primary and early Secondary levels with a science and humanities training plan. These courses are evaluated and complemented through monitoring their application and results in the classroom.



2. Research into science teaching methods and their application in the classroom

The joint work of teachers and science professionals does not only involve updating the training teachers receive. In many cases, the process of learning science includes the assimilation of new scientific and humanistic culture. The mental processes of learning constitute a Vygotsky tool that is useful in a student's future training, as it is not known what they will have to study throughout their life. This is why we research new ways of teaching science, within the framework of the students' own mental processes and representations.

CSIC at School structures scientific knowledge based on the latest research into the Nature of Science (NOS), encouraging students to acquire ways of thinking, values and ideals that form their individual paradigms through science.



3. Conferences involving advisers, teachers and science professionals

The purpose of these conferences is to bring together into a single physical space the social agents involved in the teaching of science in early educational stages; science professionals, training centre advisers, political leaders of the various autonomic communities and practising teachers meet periodically around Spain.

These meetings make up an important forum for exchanging ideas and experiences as well as debating topics, in addition to influencing the practical training of the teachers, including frontier-science meetings and practical workshops.







4. Scientific meetings

Students who participate in our programme explain their scientific research work in an annual meeting. This event is a great opportunity for students from different regions and nationalities, guided and advised by their teachers, to show their peers, docents, science professionals, authorities and families what they have learned in the classroom. The scientific meetings are held at the CSIC headquarters in Madrid.











5. Archimedes Prize for scientific research work in the classroom

This prize, which the CSIC has awarded annually since 2006 to children and their teachers, is given in recognition of scientific research in the classroom.



6. International impact

- Through collaboration agreements and joint projects, the *CSIC at School* programme extends to other countries in the European Union and Central America:
- We coordinate the Erasmus + *Scientific Literacy at School* project, together with organisations from Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Italy.
- We collaborate with the sub-department for International Cooperation and External Educational Promotion, which depends on the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.
- We have agreements on the scientific training of teachers with both Poland and the Dominican Republic.



7. Publications and other resources

Our publications offer teachers materials and resources for their work in the classroom. Teachers can publish the results of their classroom scientific research on the *CSIC at School* webpage: www.csicenlaescuela.csic.es. We also create and manage other websites:

- The CSIC's Virtual Science Museum, an extensive virtual encyclopaedia on science: www.museovirtual.csic.es.
- KIDS CSIC, a webpage with animated films, games and resources for kids, teachers and families: www.kids.csic.es.
- The CSIC Virtual Classroom, where CSIC gives online support to classroom courses: www.aulavirtual.csic.es.

8. CSIC at School in the media

Since 2001, the programme has had an important presence in the media (press, radio and television). The publications and broadcasts are available on our webpage, at the following address:

www.csicenlaescuela.csic.es/medios.html



OUR TEAM



CSIC at School was awarded the National 2016 Education Award for the Promotion of Scientific, Humanistic and Artistic Vocations by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.

El CSIC en la Escuela

EL CSIC EN LA ESCUELA / CSIC AT SCHOOL

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