

## PROMOTING SCIENCE TEACHING SKILLS IN PORTUGUESE PRIMARY TEACHERS

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Science has been included in the primary school curriculum for the last two decades in Portugal. However practice shows that children only memorise scientific information from manuals. Having in mind that science teaching skills is the main key to change this situation, a project of in-service primary school teachers training was developed in order to: a) improve their positive attitudes towards science and science teaching, b) increase their scientific background, c) develop their own skills in scientific activities, and d) promote their skills in primary school science teaching.

Twenty teachers were supervised by three university science educators and researchers to develop experimental activities similar to the ones envisaged for their students, *i.e.* using the same materials and having opportunities to rise their own questions and predictions, to write their plans of activities, to interpret results, draw conclusions and communicate. Seminars have been held in order to promote discussion and reflection about teaching experiences as a strategy to improve science teaching skills. Qualitative analysis of data on this five-months pilot intervention indicates that “hands-on” activities performed by teachers and followed by experience of teaching and reflection is a good strategy of training and that it must be longer conducted in order to have a more systematic evaluation of results.

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