

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS: a STEM-integrated Design Inquiry

Australian Curriculum Learning Areas (ACARA, 2017)

Science – [Content descriptions](#)

- Electrical energy can be transferred and transformed in electrical circuits and can be generated from a range of sources (ACSSU097) (Related directly to use of Littlebits)
- Identify, plan and apply the elements of scientific investigations to answer questions and solve problems using equipment and materials safely and identifying potential risks (ACSIS103)
- Construct and use a range of representations, including tables and graphs, to represent and describe observations, patterns or relationships in data using digital technologies as appropriate (ACSIS107)
- Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions (ACSHE083)

Maths – [Content Descriptions](#)

- Interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side-by-side column graphs for two categorical variables (ACMSP147)
- Interpret secondary data presented in digital media and elsewhere (ACMSP148)

Digital Technologies – [Content descriptions](#)

- Acquire, store and validate different types of data, and use a range of software to interpret and visualise data to create information (ACTDIP016)
- Define problems in terms of data and functional requirements drawing on previously solved problems (ACTDIP017)
- Explain how student solutions and existing information systems are sustainable and meet current and future local community needs (ACTDIP021)

Design and Technologies – [Content Descriptions](#)

- Investigate how electrical energy can control movement, sound or light in a designed product or system (ACTDEK020) (Related directly to use of Littlebits)
- Critique needs or opportunities for designing, and investigate materials, components, tools, equipment and processes to achieve intended designed solutions (ACTDEP024)
- Generate, develop and communicate design ideas and processes for audiences using appropriate technical terms and graphical representation techniques (ACTDEP025)
- Select appropriate materials, components, tools, equipment and techniques and apply safe procedures to make designed solutions (ACTDEP026)

Australian Curriculum General Capabilities

[Critical and Creative Thinking](#)

- Inquiring – identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas
- Generating ideas, possibilities and actions
- Reflecting on thinking and processes
- Analysing, synthesising and evaluating reasoning and procedures

[Information and Communication Technologies \(ICT\)](#)

- Investigating with ICT
- Creating with ICT
- Communicating with ICT
- Managing and operating ICT

[Personal and Social Capability](#)

- Self-awareness
- Social awareness
- Social management

[Numeracy](#)

- Recognising and using patterns and relationships
- Interpreting statistical information

[Literacy](#)

- Comprehending texts through listening, reading and viewing
- Composing texts through speaking, writing and creating
- Visual knowledge

Understandings	
<p>Students will understand...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data can be used to make generalisations and help us gain greater understanding about a topic - Data can be collected to help us make observations - Data can be analysed to help solve problems - Scientific method - Design thinking process 	<p>Essential Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the needs and preferences of all learners in the classroom? - Are our current learning environments conducive to learning? - What would make our learning environment better? - What digital solutions can we design to improve our learning environments?
<p>Students will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to research (and evaluate sources) - How to use data collection tools, such as iPad apps - How to use Littlebits circuits and bits related to sound, temperature and light - How to conduct quantitative and qualitative research through surveys and interviews - How to use the Design Thinking process to design a digital solution 	<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Record their research findings - Make their thinking visible through mind maps, etc. - Use iPads (and other tools) to collect data about light and/or sound and/or temperature - Collect data about preferences for learning environments using surveys - Present their findings and use it to design a digital solution - Share their prototype and their design process - Evaluate their learning throughout the unit
Assessment	
<p>Performance Tasks</p> <p><u>Determining preferred learning environments</u> Maths – Create, administer, analyse and present survey findings</p> <p><u>Investigating learning environments</u> Science – Write up of Scientific process of experiment (related to sound, light or temperature)</p> <p><u>Scientific knowledge of circuits, light and sound</u> Science and Design and Technologies assessment – video explanation of how a circuit works (using Littlebits)</p> <p><u>Improving learning environments</u> Technologies – Creation of working prototype of digital solution using Littlebits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Record and Presentation of design process 	<p>Other evidence</p> <p><u>Inquiry Journal (throughout)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research results and notes (with sources cited) - Evaluation of ‘scientific’ sources worksheet - Photos of visible thinking routines - Annotated diagrams - Sketches, notes - Brainstorming, mind maps, etc. - Reflections at each juncture - Survey at each juncture about six facets of understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o e.g. Six facet rubric