

Inquiry learning in primary education

Ard Lazonder, Yvonne Mulder and Pascal Wilhelm work on a research project entitled "Inquiry learning in elementary education" (Dutch: "Onderzoek in het primair onderwijs"). This project is funded by Kennisnet and will run from December 1, 2010 until December 31, 2011.

Elementary school teachers often find it challenging to organise and supervise small-scale science experiments in their classrooms. In general, the practical implementation of inquiry learning is time-consuming and calls heavily upon classroom management skills. As a result, opportunities for inquiry learning are relatively rare. Computer simulations might be a solution to this problem. In this project, sixth- and seventh graders (10-11 year-olds) will work with either computer simulations or concrete materials in three different physics domains. The research questions focus on the relative classroom- and learning efficiency.

Screendump simulation ('balance' domain)

