

Links to.. **Sun Screen Information**



FYI the Environmental Working Group tests sunscreens every year.

Here are links to the results for '09, including a search engine for brand names and how they rank. It's eye opening to look at their findings.

Price is not necessarily a good indicator of quality. Some do not work.

You can plug in type and brand of sunscreen here to see how effective it is:

<http://www.ewg.org/cosmetics/report/sunscreen09>

This is a guide that lists the best easy to find sunscreens:

<http://www.ewg.org/files/2009sunscreenguide.pdf>

OVER There also is a recent Massachusetts study you might find of interest:

Quincy Kids Given Photos of Sunburn Damage Covered Up

Posted on a list serve of Science Museum from Denise LeBlanc:

ISEN-ASTC-L is a service of the Association of Science-Technology Centers Incorporated, a worldwide network of science museums and related institutions.

You can do some great hands on experiments with UV Detecting Beads from Education Innovations. We do Rays Awareness, a program where visitors make and take UV bead bracelets that they can experiment with at home (inside, outside, different car windows, etc.) and at the beach (sun, shade, underwater, behind sunglasses, etc.). During the actual program we have different SPF sunscreens spread on clear CD cases. Visitors use the beads or a UV Meter can be used to determine effectiveness.

I just did this program on a very cloudy day and it was very dramatic since color changes still happened (qualitative) and the visitors were surprised. The beads were slower to change, but this allowed for more experimentation and finer distinctions. A UV Meter gives quantitative readings.

Here are links for Educational Innovations. They also have resources online. The Weather Channel also developed Sun Safety educational resources several years ago.
See link below.

<http://www.teachersource.com/LightAndColor/Ultraviolet/UltravioletDetectingBeads.aspx>

<http://www.teachersource.com/LightAndColor/Ultraviolet/UVOutsideDetector.aspx>

<http://www.teachersource.com/LightAndColor/Ultraviolet/UVAtmosphericLightMeter.aspx>

<http://www.weather.com/learn/raysawareness/>

There also is a recent controlled study you might find of interest: Kids Given Photos of Sunburn Damage Covered Up Better

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_83290.html

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For information about the Association of Science-Technology Centers and the Informal Science Education Network please visit www.astc.org.