

# DIVERSITY IN STEM EDUCATION



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## Escaping the Primary Classroom

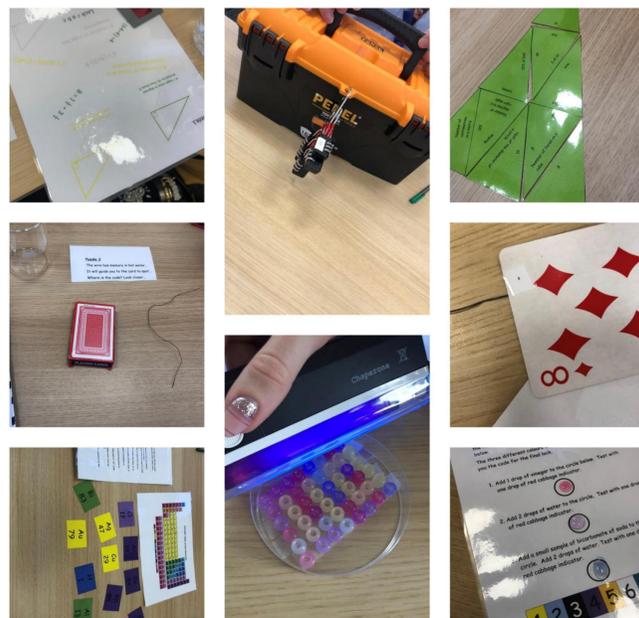
Using an escape room concept to inspire primary practitioners

Inspiring young people is one thing, but inspiring fellow practitioners is another thing entirely. Building on the work of others, colleagues and I designed CLPL to show how an escape room could be used as a context for the delivery of Primary school STEM. Six STEM activities were designed that were appropriate for primary school aged pupils, using numerous innovative approaches (including nitinol, microscale chemistry and a primary school safe equivalent to UV), taking into consideration the health and safety requirements for that age group. CLPL was then planned, written and delivered to over 120 primary practitioners in North Lanarkshire, leading to a massive increase in the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning in STEM council wide.



Working with professionals at SSERC, as part of the Primary Cluster Programme (PCP), building on the work of Adrian Allan, the following six experiments were packaged into a 90 minute workshop.

1. Numeracy problems in different colours, colour filters were used to identify the correct code.
2. Tarsia triangle with maths problems with a code written in UV ink.
3. Nitinol wire problem.
4. UV beads with a hidden code.
5. Periodic table puzzle.
6. Microscale acid and base experiment.



Of the back of this CLPL and others, North Lanarkshire Council launched its STEM agenda, with attendees from 96% of all centres, many of whom were trained in the Primary Escape Room, many of whom have contacted me stating the Escape Room as the inspiration to get fully behind the Local Authority STEM agenda.

