

Science is fun!

There are a lot of ways to make your subjects easy. Read on to know more.

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If the very thought of math and science gives you angry rashes all over the body, don't fret. They may not be all that bad, if the recent workshops in the city are any indication. Held by Isha Home School for its teachers, the math and science workshops showed how these subjects could be made simple and appealing to the children.

Ravindra Keskar from Mumbai taught them mathematics through origami, an art of paper folding. With "mountain folds" and "valley folds", he made complicated geometry look awfully easy. "Human body is full of mathematics — it contains even algorithm," he says. Among the many interesting facts he shared with the teachers, the one most striking was that he used origami to teach the physically disabled and the blind. (You can mail Keskar at kes-

kar82@yahoo.com to know more.)

Pune-based Ashok Rupner's workshop was equally stimulating — science through junk. He explained complex concepts through undemanding experiments. Sample this. It took him just a long PVC pipe — one inch in diameter, a paper cone and 10 sheets of newspaper to define air pressure. The paper cone blown from one end of the pipe flew out through the other, and got stuck on hand-held newspaper sheets like an arrow on a dartboard.

Touching slate

Rupner had brought along an interesting "touching slate". Designed by Dilip Bhatt from ISRO, it is made using strips of Velcro pasted on a square piece of plywood, and a pen made combining film-roll case, empty plastic pen case, a pulley and wool. As the wool acted as the ink, one could draw on the board. It is particularly helpful for the blind to understand shapes. (Visit www.vidyaonline.net/arvindgupta/tftwo.pdf)

Much to the teachers' delight, Rupner circulated a colourful



HEADS ALL: Complex concepts made easy.

sheet of periodic table of the elements.

Delight because, against each element was its symbol, its atomic number, atomic mass and an illustration of its use. Put together by the Department of Science and Technology, Republic of South

Africa, this incredibly fascinating table would be a handy tool for study. (Visit www.saasta.ac.za/downloads/pdfs/poster_periodic_table.pdf)

Rupner is part of the Children's Science Centre at Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astro-

physics. The Centre is headed by Arvind Gupta, whose website offers innumerable interesting experiments, all downloadable free of cost. (Check out <http://www.arvindguptatoys.com/toys.htm>) And cast off that dread science gave you. Happy experiments!