



**Developmental Approaches in Science, Health & Technology (DASH)**, for grades kindergarten through 6, is an integrated, sequential, comprehensive, inquiry-based program that begins with basic concepts, makes practical connections, and crosses subject areas.

### **Organization**

*DASH* activities are organized into ten clusters at each grade level:

1. Learning
2. Time, weather, and sky
3. Animals
4. Plants
5. Food and nutrition
6. Health and safety
7. Wayfinding and transportation
8. Energy and communication
9. Conservation, recycling, and decomposition
10. Matter, space, and construction

### **DASH Activities and Teaching Guides**

In each *DASH* activity, students build an understanding of basic concepts and skills and create a real product as evidence of what they learn. Every grade has a teaching guide with activities for students, support materials for teachers, and sections for families and school administrators. All *DASH* materials conform to the new standards in science education.

### **DASH Teacher Support**

*DASH* teachers are fully trained with both institutes and continued support programs. Teachers attend a 10-day teachers' institute where they (a) participate in the same activities and inquiries and create the same products their students will in their classes; (b) learn to use the variety of teaching behaviors used in the *DASH* program; and (c) analyze the *DASH* learning, teaching, and assessment model through reflective and in-depth discussions. A two-year professional development program is also provided, with monthly meetings and continued newsletter, e-mail, Website, and 800 number supports.

### **DASH Effectiveness**

Case study evaluations of *DASH* found that after participating in *DASH* professional development, teachers changed their attitudes and approaches toward elementary science that both increased their emphasis on science and improved their focus on students' learning.

### **DASH teachers**

- create an environment where students share and take responsibility for their own learning and classroom operations.
- enable students to understand apply important science and health and technology concepts through connections with ideas in other content areas, their prior knowledge and their environments outside of school.
- use effective inquiry teaching skills.
- encourage and see varied solutions to problems.