ThinkWell and Zooniverse, Play through Public Led Trials

Playing to learn

ThinkWell uses research tools for hole in the wall learning. Read on to find out what this is! We believe the public is smart enough to do their own research. We learn through play and exploration. The public will be given tools normally reserved for professional researchers as we teach you the public to do your own research and run public led trials. You choose the topics, you own the data and you find answers. In this example street children in rural India were given access to a computer built into a wall. They received no help or instruction from experts but through this tool of the computer they worked collaboratively and shared ideas until they taught each other to navigate the computer, to read and even to find answers to physics questions. It is not just children who can learn like this. Adults want to play too. ThinkWell wants to learn from you and with you by engaging in public led trials’

In Zooniverse a citizen science project it was the citizens who worked together to find a new galaxy. “Somewhere,
something incredible is waiting to be known,” wrote Carl Sagan. “Not only are people better than computers at detecting the subtleties that differentiate galaxies, they can do things computers can’t do, like spot things that just look interesting,” explains Zooniverse director Chris Lintott, an astronomer at the University of Oxford”. “Zooite” Hanny van Arkel, a Dutch schoolteacher, discovered this strange green object floating in her cosmic soup: She worked with other citizens and they discovered a galaxy. Read about how this happens here, it is fascinating and inspiring. Thinkwell Hole in the Wall Research Learning starts with you!

At ThinkWell Dr. Amanda Burls and Dr. Amy Price believe you can make health better believe citizens can do the same thing by exploring health research. You and other citizens could be the ones that change the face of health care. This kind of learning is well rooted in science, In life we can watch it happen in children as they play and learn. These concepts were realized through HIWEL where computers were placed in walls and illiterate children taught themselves and each other to read and learn the computer. 19 relevant publications related to this project are linked here http://www.hole-in-the-wall.com/findings.html

Thinkwell knows collaboration and exploratory learning will do this for health research. It is time for us as citizens to become empowered about our own healthcare. Our voices can count to provoke change, challenge and discovery. ThinkWell creates the opportunity for the public to build their own trials and in turn create resources for researchers. You can build it we can help! Lets work together to integrate patient values and public involvement.

Want to play with us? Let us know what you think about public led clinical trials and health research. Please leave us with
your thoughts.