Balloons and Skewers

General Objective: To provide an opportunity for students to ask questions in science by observing a phenomenon and experiencing that phenomenon.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the lesson, students can answer the following "I can" statements:

1. I can ask questions.
2. I can successfully put a skewer through a balloon.
3. I can provide 1-2 real-life examples of skewers in balloons.
4. I can explain why the balloon doesn't pop when the skewer is put through it.
5. I can keep a record of my learning in a science notebook/journal.

Materials needed: balloons, skewers

Safety Issue: sharp objects and balloons (potential choking hazard)

Instructional Procedures:
1. Show balloon and skewer.
2. Blow up balloon.
3. Ask what happens when a sharp object and a balloon come into contact.
4. When people say that the balloon pops, then pop the balloon.
5. Blow up a 2nd balloon. Say something like, "wouldn't it be interesting if I could push the skewer through the balloon without popping it?" Do it as you say it.
6. Let students observe the skewer in the balloon. Solicit questions from students and encourage them to record those questions in their notebooks.
7. You can help students differentiate between researchable questions and testable questions. Researchable questions are those that can be looked up in a resource such as a dictionary or a on a web search. Testable questions are those can that be tested to determine the answer.
8. Pass out balloons and skewers to everyone.
9. Assist students as needed.
10. Once everyone has been successful, have students revisit their questions and answer them
11. At some point, have students record diagrams, observations, questions, etc. in their science notebooks/journals. This is the Science Practice of Obtaining, Evaluating & Communicating.
12. Ask for any final questions or comments.