**Balancing Stick**

**Materials:** (for each student) a popsicle stick, one foot of bendable wire, (18 gage), and two washers.

**Directions:** Tightly wrap the wire around the stick, about an inch from the bottom of the stick. Wrap the wire around a few times so an equal amount of wire protrudes from each side. Bend the two halves of the wire downward so that they hang several inches below the stick. Form a hook at each end and add the washers. Experiment with how much weight it takes to make the toy balance. Is there a way to make it work if there is a different number of weights on each arm? Once you have balanced the toy, close up the ends of the wire to keep the weights from falling off. Balance the toy on your finger, your nose, or even on the eraser of a pencil.

*From: Teaching Science with Toys*