

Listen to the story [6 min 54 sec] – use the following link:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104750990>

Education

**Competition Turns Science Into Child's Play**

What if tongue depressors were made of candy? What if you made a skateboard that rolled on balls instead of wheels? And if there really is life on other planets, how on earth could we communicate?

More than 700 elementary school students came up with questions and ideas like these for the Kids Science Challenge — a nationwide competition funded by the National Science Foundation.

Host Scott Simon talks with Jim Metzner, the creator of the competition, and two students who participated.