Bright Ideas - Education - Kitchen Chemistry for Middle Schoolers - NY...
Along the way, the children were encouraged to add observations and hypotheses into the Kitchen Science software on shared laptops, and to read up on goals for the day and on recipes. The women collected hundreds of hours of video and pages of data gleaned from the observations for their thesis, on how middle-school students develop scientific reasoning skills and respond to various learning techniques and social situations.

"Especially being in computing, you feel like you don’t have a direct impact on people," Ms. Gardner says. "With us, we got to see first-hand the effect of our designing the learning environment."

Now the women are busy analyzing the data they collected, and are scheduled to run a seminar for other educators at the National AfterSchool Association convention in April in New Orleans, Ms. Clegg says, to make sure Kitchen Science Investigators “can sustain itself and have a life in communities all over the country.”