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Wei Wei* (wei.wei@metrostate.edu), 700 East 7th Street, Metropolitan State University, Department of Mathematics, St. Paul, MN 55106. *Teaching introductory statistics with candies and chopsticks*. Preliminary report.

In this presentation, I will show three in-class group activities using M&M candies and chopsticks in an introductory statistics course. The goal of these activities is to help students understand the materials and improve their learning experience and learning outcomes. The audience will be engaged in doing the first activity. The first activity is to calculate probabilities under a normal distribution using candies, chopsticks and a stopwatch. Students work in a group, record the time of transferring M&M candies from one container to another using chopsticks, and use their data collected to calculate the probability of transferring a candy with a longer/a shorter time than an individual. The second activity is to generate the sampling distribution of proportions for certain color of candies and calculate the mean and standard deviation of the distribution. The last activity is to perform a Chi-square test using M&M candies. Based on the end-of-term survey, 80.5% of the students liked these activities and 78.1% of the students believed these activities helped them to understand the course materials. A detailed survey results will be presented. (Received August 12, 2014)