



How to help your child in Science

Young children are naturally curious and constantly exploring the world around them. Science provides the opportunity for children to extend this natural curiosity and helps children to develop a greater appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

You can help your child by exploring materials and events, asking questions and investigating, recording/representing their work, reflecting on what they have done and what it means – allowing them to create new theories or ideas about how the world works. These skills, attitudes, and ways of thinking are important to many areas of learning throughout life. Encourage your child to ask questions. If you can't answer all of their questions, that's all right— no one has all the answers, not even scientists. Some of the best answers you can give are, "What do you think?" and "Let's find out together."

Use everyday interactions with your child to help them learn science. Here are a few ideas:

Growing seeds

Watching how the sun changes its position in the sky

Finding out what happens when you add objects to water – do they float?

These are a few websites that you may find useful:

www.naturedetectives.org.uk – particularly suitable for KS1, this site has lots of free ideas linked to nature through the seasons and includes observing nature, quizzes, arts and crafts. It also has a kids club for a subscription fee.

www.cciproject.org – the Challenge Club, helps children to learn about science and why it is so important in the real world. There are things to look at, read and do.

www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2science.htm - free website with interactive resources and games linked to a range of science topics.

www.2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/science/science.pdf - this is an American document from the US Department of Education and lists many activities suitable for preschool to grade 5. It also gives explanations.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize - has interactive activities, notes and tests that are linked to science topics.

A very good book with at home practical activities is 'My Big Science Book' by Priddy books ISBN 1-84332-134-3. Also 'The Usborne Big book of Science things to make and do' ISBN 9781409539001. Both of these give explanations to the activities.