



SCIENCE HOME  
LEARNING TIPS

# Why teach Science?

- Encourages enquiring minds
- Develops flexible thinking
- Opportunities for problem-solving
- Teaching of science-specific skills and knowledge
- Future careers



# Can I help at home?

- Animals (including people)
- Plants
- Weather
- Chemical and physical properties of substances
- Earth and space
- Energy



# Animals (and people!)

- Watch a spider in its web;
- observe the movements of the animals around you: dogs, cats, squirrels, rabbits, birds; observe birds in their nests and their habitats;
- watch a caterpillar spin its cocoon and wait until it transforms into a butterfly;
- look for animal tracks;
- observe the way ducks animals care for their young;
- visit the vet with your pet;
- observe the changes as a cut heals;
- ask to see x-rays at the doctor's or dentist's office;
- ask about the equipment that your doctor or dentist uses;
- observe the genetic similarities between generations in your family or friends.

# Plants

- Plant packaged seeds and observe them grow;
- plant seeds from fruit and vegetables that you eat;
- plant an acorn; learn the names of various types of trees and flowers;
- save waste food as compost;
- watch flowers bud and blossom;
- help care for trees and flowers in your environment;
- plant a tree and record its progress.

# Weather

- Look at the weather report on television or in the newspaper;
- pick a place and find its weather on the Internet;
- look at a map that has climate or weather zones;
- observe the sky at different times during the day;
- keep a thermometer inside and outside your house;
- fly a kite;
- ask people about the weather where they are when you send them email or speak to them on the phone;
- keep a graph or diary of weather conditions;
- talk about the weather with people who come from different climate zones;
- investigate the life of people who live in a different weather zone than you;
- collect rain in a container;
- gaze at a rainbow;
- count the time that takes place after lightning flashes and thunder crashes.

# Chemical and physical properties

- Experiment with what will sink or float in a large bucket of water;
- collect items in nature and sort them;
- see how long it takes for an ice cube to melt;
- draw on steamy bathroom mirrors or car windows;
- reflect light off mirrors;
- shine light through a crystal;
- balance objects on a seesaw;
- squirt food coloring into water;
- make bubbles;
- create your own musical instruments;
- sort spices by the different types of tastes;
- help with measuring and mixing with recipes;
- put glow-in-the-dark stickers on your child's ceiling or wall.

# Earth and space

- Dig a hole in your yard or at the beach;
- name the different materials used to build houses and other buildings;
- read maps;
- make model cars, boats, and airplanes;
- go rock-hunting to see how many different ones you can find;
- notice the way the sun and moon move across the sky;
- watch a sunrise or sunset;
- keep track of the progress of space program satellites, launches, and missions;
- make a graph of the way the shape of the moon changes throughout the month;
- put rocks in a tumbler and see how they change;
- look at the stars when you are away from an area that has bright city lights.

# Energy

- Observe how your electric meter changes when you turn things on and off;
- recycle glass, metal, and paper around the house;
- visit a recycling site and a dump;
- play around with magnets on the refrigerator;
- learn how to use electrical tools in the kitchen, bathroom, and workshop;
- take apart old tools that have stopped working;
- find out how things work;
- figure out the mileage for the family's car;
- figure out the differences in time for a trip you take on foot, by bike, in a car, or on a bus or train;
- see how far a ball will roll.



## **BB in 100 words**

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