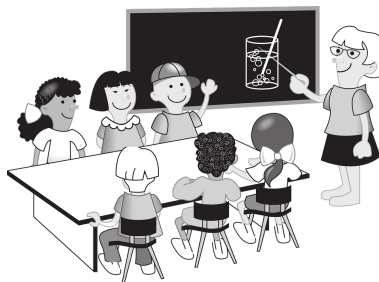


## Science tips for parents



### What parents can do to help

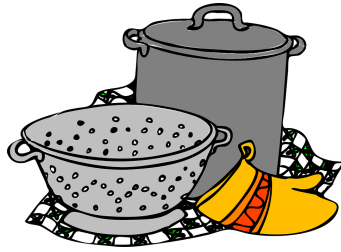
- See science everywhere! Parents can take opportunities to ask, "What would happen if ...?" questions or present brainteasers to encourage children to be inquisitive and seek out answers. Children need to know that science isn't just a subject, it is a way of understanding the world around us.
- Lead family discussions on science-related topics. Dinner time might be an ideal time for your family to have discussions about news stories that are science based, like space shuttle missions, severe weather conditions, or new medical breakthroughs. Over time, children will develop a better understanding of science and how it affects many parts of our lives. Movies and TV shows with science-related story lines are also great topics for discussion.



- Encourage girls and boys equally. Many fathers might be inclined to fix a problem for a daughter without challenging her to find the solution on her own. Many girls are left out of challenging activities simply because of their gender. Be aware that both girls and boys need to be encouraged and exposed to a variety of subjects at a very early age.



- Do science together. Children, especially primary-age children, learn better by investigating and experimenting. Simple investigations done together in the home can bolster what your child is learning in the classroom (See further sections of website). Check with your child's teacher what your child is currently learning in class and what activities you can explore at home. There are also many books on the market and numerous websites that present ideas for investigations. *For example:* using a penny and a water dropper, ask your child to guess how many drops of water will fit on top of it. Ask your child to count the drops as he or she drops them on the penny. Why doesn't the water spill off after a few drops?
- Obtain science resources. Follow up science discussions, home experiments, or classroom lessons with books, magazines, CDs, and other resources. Science themes will be reinforced through further exploration, and over time your family will have plenty of resources on which to draw. Lots of everyday objects around the home can be used as science resources too.
- Explore non-formal education sites. In an informal learning situation—the kind of learning that happens outside the traditional confines of the classroom, at science centres, museums, zoos, and aquariums—children are encouraged to experiment on their own and ask questions about what they are experiencing.



- See science in the kitchen - when cooking, look at how different foods change, what effect does heating and cooling have? How do different ingredients change e.g. yeast, melted chocolate.
- Connect science with a family holiday or outing. Family trips are a great way to explore science. It could be a hiking trip where you explore nature or a discussion on tides during a beach holiday.



- **Show excitement for science!**