



Parents in the Know

Focus on Science

Encouraging Curiosity

There are many things that you can do to help grow your child's interest and ability in science.

Allow your child to explore her world by providing opportunities for exploration and discovery.

- * Spend time playing and learning from the outdoors.
- * Explore with a magnifying glass.
- * Observe and sketch things around the house.
- * Discuss everyday science occurrences around the house (ex. Why does ice melt?)
- * Learn how things work by taking broken items apart and putting them back together.

Based on: "Parent Involvement in Science Learning", National Science Teachers' Association Position Statement, <http://www.nsta.org/about/positions/parents.aspx>



Learning on the Go!

Much of what children learn about science is through exploration and discovery. Your home provides many opportunities. But, there are also many wonderful resources in the community that you can use to help your child learn about science. Consider visiting some of the following:

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| Zoo | Science Museum |
| Park | Nature Center |
| Aquarium | Beach |
| Lake | Planetarium |
| Farm | Woods |

Based on: American Federation of Teachers, "Building Parent-Teacher Relationships," Reading Rockets, <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/19308>

Questioning Science

The art of exploration and discovery involves a lot of questioning. Encourage your child to question things around him or her. You can help your child think scientifically by asking things such as:

1. Why do you think that happened?
2. What do you want to know?
3. What do you think will happen when . . . ?
4. What happens if . . . ?
5. How can we find out . . . ?



Meet Joanna Cole

Joanna Cole is the author of the popular children's science series "The Magic School Bus". The Magic School Bus is a series of cartoon science adventures that Ms. Frizzle and her class take. Trips include places from inside the human body to outer space.

There are many different Magic School Bus books. There are ten books in the original series, more than 20 books based on the television series, and a chapter book series. Videos and children's software are also available. Visit your local library and find out what sort of adventure is waiting for you and your child!

Scholastic provides a wonderful Magic School Bus website. On the site children can play games, learn about experiments, even go on virtual Magic School Bus adventures. Visit the Magic School Bus at www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/

What Research Says



Parents can positively affect their child's success in science. Providing opportunities for exploration, discussing scientific events and discoveries, encouraging your child to question, and showing an interest in discovery yourself are a few simple things that you can do that will really make a difference.

Based on: Peter Rillero, "Doing Science with Your Child", ERIC Clearinghouse for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education, ED 372 952, <http://www.ericdigests.org/1995-1/science.htm>