



# How to be a science parent...



## See science everywhere.

Take opportunities to ask "What would happen if ...?" questions or present brainteasers to encourage children to be inquisitive and seek out answers on their own and resist the impulse to provide answers.

**Children need to know that science isn't just a subject, but it is a way of understanding the world around us.**

## Lead family discussions on science-related topics.

Dinnertime 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 facets of our lives.

## Elevate women in science.

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 elementary-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.

Check with your child's teacher on what your child is currently learning in class and what activities you can explore at home.

Challenge your family to live eliminate single use plastics and live lightly on the earth.

## Explore nonformal education sites.

Learn about and investigate the natural world with your child. Visit universities, farms, mountains, museums, zoos, aquariums, beaches, power plants, etc. Talk to your children about the science happening all around.

You don't have to know all the answers.



## Be a model.



Share in failures. Celebrate risks. Instill in your child the belief that he/she can succeed in science and that hard work pays off.

Read about science and scientists. Model curiosity and sense-making.

Educate yourself about your child's curriculum AND in what is happening in science locally and globally.

Assess your own science behaviors. Provide family opportunities for science-based problem solving in your community.

## Show excitement for science.

Do this important work together.

