

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO SUCCESS IN SCIENCE

by:

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Early exposure to science is crucial because scientific knowledge is cumulative. Learning science requires a solid knowledge base that can be built upon through further study and exploration. Children should be exposed to science at home as early as possible. Expect your child to learn only some of what they need to know about science at school. The truth is that science instruction in schools has limitations, and the subject is generally a low priority for educators. As parents, we play a vital role in supporting our children's learning. Everyday activities like growing plants, cooking, and caring for animals are related to science. If we look around us, we see that science is everywhere. Parents can engage in science activities with their children outside of school to enhance their scientific understanding, promote scientific research, and encourage a love of science and the pursuit of knowledge. Although some aspects of science are intellectually demanding, often simple experiences lead to insightful learning. To get children interested in science, we must provide them with stimulating environments to observe and discuss science. Zoos, nature centers, oceans, parks, gardens, and kitchens are ideal learning environments. Children learn naturally through playful exploration. Educational DVDs and toys help critical thinking and promote skill development. When children ask questions to satisfy their natural curiosity, this is an opportunity parents can take advantage of. For example, if your child is interested in light switches and wants to know how they turn the lights on and off, explore that topic with them. Find out how the switch works and why. Why does yeast make bread rise? How does a spider spin its web? Why do leaves fall? Why do birds disappear in winter? These are all fun opportunities for discovery, and as a parent, you have the power to shape and encourage your child's scientific curiosity.

Find out what your child is interested in and encourage them to do it. If your child is interested in rocks, they can learn about rocks, gems, mining and fossils. As this curiosity is nurtured, they can explore fossil fuels, heat production and their impact on the environment. This one question leads to another. Stimulate your child's natural curiosity. These activities should be challenging, not frustrating. Don't force your child to do things they're not interested in. Rather, engage them in motivating activities that will spark their desire to explore further. When you share your scientific interests, you will be amazed at the impact that genuine enthusiasm can have. Remember that open and frequent discussions are the key to developing scientific knowledge and discovering further areas of interest. These discussions not only help your child structure their thinking, develop concepts, and explore the various connections between ideas, but they also strengthen the bond between you and your child, making you feel more connected to their learning process.