

Parents and Guardians,

Science is all around us, and it's often children who are asking the tough science questions. How does the milk get from a cow to your refrigerator? Why do the leaves change color in the fall? And of course . . . Why is the sky blue?

Science is for all ages, and science experiments are a great way to help children to think on their own and learn outside of the classroom. Science experiments in the classroom allow students to learn in a comfortable group setting. Science experiments at home can also be fun because each child can pick what he or she wants to learn more about.

Where can parents and children go for information on science experiments that can easily be done in the home? Two places are the Internet and television.

There are several children's television shows with matching Web sites that provide information on science experiments. Some of these include:

Bill Nye The Science Guy – Bill Nye answers some of those hard questions posed by children. Visit him at <http://www.billnye.com> .

Jay Jay The Jet Plane – Jay Jay offers science and nature projects perfect for children ages 4 – 7. Projects on weather, gravity, plants, rocks, and more go along with the TV shows of Jay Jay and his friends. <http://pbskids.org/jayjay/care.sciencenature.html>

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood can also be a source for science experiments for the young and young at heart. Explore cooking activities and water experiments at <http://pbskids.org/rogers/> .

ZOOM - Children from Preschool through middle school will enjoy watching the ZOOM cast of kids try science experiments on TV. Afterwards, children can visit the Web site at <http://pbskids.org/zoom/> to find directions on trying the experiments at home.

Dragonfly TV - This program for elementary age students will show everyday kids performing experiments. Children can then go online to learn more about the science they've just seen on TV, or submit their own idea for a science experiment on Dragonfly TV. <http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/>

Whether online, on TV, at the library, or at your child's school, there are many resources available to help parents encourage science in the home. Science can promote many useful skills in children including confidence, organization, following directions, and the desire to learn.

