



Your Little Scientist

Many people think of science as a subject we begin to learn about in school. Interestingly, children begin scientific thinking and reasoning as infants. Helping children explore their world and environment in different ways requires parents and caregivers to think about how to keep their child's interest purposely. Scientific exploration is something that parents and children can do together with everyday objects from around the house. As children explore and discover, it's not about children coming up with the correct answer. The goal is to encourage and grow children's reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Most importantly, have fun.

Set the stage (optional):

- Offer your child a "science lab coat"
 - » Any white button shirt would work well as a lab coat
 - » Don't have a white button shirt, try an old white t-shirt. Cut it in the front, up the middle

Here are a few "science labs" ideas for you and your child to try together.

Sun Prints:

- What You Need:
 - » Colorful Construction Paper
 - » Tape
 - » Variety of objects/items
- What to Do:
 - » Place the colorful piece of construction paper in the sunlight
 - » Lay the objects on top of the paper
 - » Wait several hours
 - » Remove the objects
 - » Ask you child what happened?



Cloud Burst:

- What You Need:
 - » Clean, clear 2-liter bottle or clear jar
 - » Shaving Cream
 - » Water
 - » Food Coloring
- What to Do:
 - » Fill the jar half full with water
 - » Spray shaving cream on top of the water
 - » Add several drops of food coloring on top of the shaving cream
- Watch and Wait



References: Slater-Mulder, Andrea. 2019, November 17. *14 Science Experiments for Kids*. <https://www.todayparent.com/family/activities/fun-science-experiments-for-kids/#gallery/fun-science-experiments-for-kids/slide-1ox.pdf>