



## Teaching Science at Home

When it comes to teaching science at home, some parents don't know where to start. With summer fun and other back-to-school planning, sometimes science decisions get overlooked.

### There's good news:

You don't have to be a science scholar to have homeschool science success. No matter your science ability or your kids' interest level, science can be easy, rewarding, and fun. We'll show you how to make homeschool science work for you.

### How can you prepare for back-to-school science?

There are a few key decisions you will need to make to get your homeschool science year up and running. Use our teaching tips and checklist below to make sure you're covering everything.

## TEACHING TIPS

- ✓ Choose lessons that enable outdoor adventures during spring and fall. Studying pond life, collecting insects, and rock hounding makes science irresistible! Plus, most kids love exploring the natural world hands-on.
- ✓ Kids are astute observers with natural curiosity. Feed their curiosity by asking questions related to their lessons and experiments.
- ✓ If you're teaching students of different ages, look for ways to overlap your curriculum. Often, you can use the same curriculum with a range of ages.
- ✓ Before answering your students' questions, engage their critical thinking skills. Be generous with how and why questions.
  - What do you think?
  - How does it work?
  - What do you think caused that?
  - What would happen if...?

- Why do you think that?
  - How can you test to see if it's true?
- ✓ Understand your student's learning needs. Is he or she an independent learner who enjoys working alone? Or does your child need more help from you? Choose an appropriate curriculum and maintain realistic expectations throughout the school year.
- ✓ Embrace mistakes! Most science progress happens when learning from mistakes. A goal should be for your kids to become skilled in learning from what didn't work and in persevering to try again. These skills will serve them in many areas throughout their lives, not only science.



## CHECKLIST

### Choose a Learning Method

- Use a published curriculum that provides a ready-made scope & sequence. See page 3 for a link to helpful reviews of published curricula.
- Build your own curriculum by choosing resources for individual science topics and experiments.
- Use an online or distance-learning course.

### Gather Your Science Supplies

- Look ahead in your curriculum and make a list of all the materials for experiments. Can you use household items for some experiments?
- Do you need to buy any lab equipment or supplies?
- Are you shopping for more than one student? Look for quantity discounts.
- Do you have the necessary safety equipment?

### Plan Your Approach

- Devote time each week for learning science. We recommend at least an hour each week for elementary grades and 4-6 hours weekly for middle school and up.
- Plan a consistent science schedule. Keep in mind that experiments take you outdoors sometimes.

- Gather and organize science equipment into bins and store similar items together.

## Prepare Your Students

- Teach kids to use a science notebook. It's perfect for drawing, doodling, collecting, and making observations during experiments. (Not only is it good scientific practice but it's also fun to review at the end of the year!)
- Review the Scientific Method together to act as your guide as you study science. See our article for further study: <https://www.homesciencetools.com/learning-center/scientific-method-grades-k-12> . (Don't worry, most science curricula review the Scientific Method as part of their lessons. There will be more opportunities for you to review it with your students.)

## SCIENCE EXPERTISE YOU CAN COUNT ON!

Our customer service is eager to answer your homeschool science questions.

1-800-860-6272 | [service@homesciencetools.com](mailto:service@homesciencetools.com)

Customer service is available Mon-Fri, 7 am - 6 pm MT.

## Resources

### The Scientific Method

<https://www.homesciencetools.com/learning-center/scientific-method-grades-k-12>

### Keeping a Science Notebook

<https://www.homesciencetools.com/learning-center/how-to-keep-a-science-notebook/>

### How Kids Learn Science Best

<https://www.homesciencetools.com/learning-center/how-to-learn-science>

### Best Homeschool Science Curriculum & Reviews

<https://www.homesciencetools.com/learning-center/best-homeschool-science-curriculum>

### Customizing Curriculum Lab Kits

<https://www.homesciencetools.com/learning-center/customizable-kits>

### Shop Science Supplies and Kits by Age

<https://www.homesciencetools.com/shop-by-age-tool>

### General Home Lab Safety & Chemical Storage

<https://www.homesciencetools.com/a/chemical-safety-and-storage-in-the-homeschool-lab>

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