

7 top tips to help your child with secondary science

Here are some fun and interesting things you can do together at home over the summer – and they will improve your child's understanding and appreciation of science!

1

Keep it real. Find learning in everyday activities and build on your child's interests. Everyday and real world contexts help to make science more recognisable and accessible. Look at items you come into contact with every day or are in the news, such as vehicles, smart phones, green energy and vaccine cures, as they all provide context as to the [importance and use of science in real life](#).

2

Be inspired. Explore the range of exciting science-related careers and the skills involved. Finding out about [real-life role models](#) is a great way to bring science to life, link learning to real world applications, and encourage young people to think about their future. Watch a wildlife documentary together and talk about the people and jobs involved. [You can research different STEM careers available](#) - for example, explore what it takes to be an astronaut.

3

Go exploring. Being outdoors can stimulate young people, giving them context to the science they know. If you are on a walk, in a park or even on a trip to the shops, spotting science in action can help young people make links and ask questions. Linking to the natural environment is great, whether it's the seaside or inner city. Using free apps and [guides](#) can help you and your child identify nature around you.

4

Get creative. Engaging with activities that support classroom learning across a variety of subjects provides an excellent opportunity for parents to actively involve themselves with their child's learning. This is especially true if you can set daily and weekly activities that link together to form a theme. [Practical, fun and creative activities](#) will reinforce skill sets and widen the perception of how STEM subjects are used.

5

Challenge yourself. Working together to make a difference. For example, the [Climate Detectives](#) challenge set by the European Space Agency and ESERO-UK invites 8 to 15 year olds to identify a climate problem, investigate it and present ideas of how to tackle those issues.

6

Grow together. Look out for holiday-time STEM opportunities offered by your child's school, library or other local groups. Engage with summer STEM events such as fairs and workshops or visit science museums. Parental encouragement and interest in science learning helps demonstrate its value. [STEM Clubs](#) and events are great ways to learn with others, whilst building your own knowledge and confidence.

7

Build it in. Reading about science or watching science-related TV can help young people connect with real-life science. [Catalyst magazine](#) offers bite-size chunks of science which help with developing vocabulary, and provide context to the science they have learnt in school. Even re-reading a school text book can help. Encouraging them to highlight words they don't understand and to look them up can be useful.