

Starters for Science are 4 activities that parents can use at home to help children develop their science alongside the key learning and vocabulary children are using at school. The activities are easy to resource and provide children with the stimulus to learn and talk about their science topic. Encourage children to use the correct vocabulary as they talk about what they are doing and finding out. Don't forget to share your work on social media

#ScienceFromHome

Key Learning:

All living things can be grouped into broad groups based on observable characteristics.

They are grouped based on similarities and differences.

There are 6 large groups of living things, two of which include all animals and plants.

There are also classes for microorganisms.

Animals can be further classified into vertebrates (those animals with a back bone) and invertebrates (without a backbone).

Vertebrates are then grouped into: mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

Plants are grouped into flowering plants and non-flowering varieties.

Each group has specific characteristics that all members of that group must have.

Vocabulary:

classification: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species

microorganisms: bacteria, virus

fungi

vertebrate animals: fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles

invertebrate animals: snails, worms, slugs, spiders, insects

non-flowering plants: ferns, mosses

flowering plants: grasses, trees

Microbe mania

There are lots of different microorganisms in the world. Lots of them are helpful, some are harmful. Imagine you have just discovered a new bacteria, you will need to think about how it looks, what it does and give it a name. You can find out more about microbes here: <https://e-bug.eu/enupage.html?type=hs&level=junior>

Create a new creature

Create an imaginary animal using features of animals that already exist. For example a cat head, snail body and spider legs. How would you classify your new animal? Will it be a mammal, invertebrate or fish? Create a scientific name and classification for your new creation. <https://www.stem.org.uk/rxzxz>

Lichen survey

Have you noticed that on a lot of trees and other natural things grow small brown, yellow, orange and green plant like organisms called lichen. The types that grow in a place can tell us a lot about the air quality in the area. Can you find lichens on your local trees? Look at the charts to see how the air is in your neighbourhood. www.stem.org.uk/rxzb6

Rainforest classification

Many tropical rainforest leaves have a drip tip to help them cope with high rainfall. Plants need to shed water to avoid growth of fungus and bacteria in the warm, wet tropical rainforest. Look at the leaves in your garden or out on a walk. What adaptations do they have? Can you create a key to identify them? <https://bit.ly/2XR21V1>