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# Science resources

## Discovery awaits online: Get out there and learn!

- **TryScience.org** has a number of ideas for science experiments at home as well as an informative section for parents. [www.tryscience.org](http://www.tryscience.org)
- **HowStuffWorks** has explanations of many phenomena that kids often wonder about. You may have to help explain some of the content here for your child. [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)
- **PBS Kids** has a science section full of interactive and entertaining games, as well as ideas for home experiments. <http://pbskids.org/games/science.html>

Our kids have a ravenous appetite for media — they're naturals on the internet. Science websites are among the best experiences available to kids online. These sites, listed with links at left and right, offer a huge amount of information that kids can safely browse.



Mixing visuals, sound, text and interaction, these sites offer more than television typically can for our kids. Often, a child can browse content online at a pace that makes sense to them. On TV,

images are flying by and it's hard to tell what sticks.

***These sites offer more than television typically can for our kids.***

A great way to extend the content your child is accessing online is to **try some of the experiments they suggest!** Often, all the materials are already in your home or can be easily and economically obtained from a grocery store or bodega.

The sites listed here are just the beginning. Get out there and see what else you can find, and enthusiastically share your results with your child! See below for help with evaluating other sites.

- **Utah Education Network's** science section highlights and developmentally levels interactive science games online. <http://www.uen.org/3-6interactives/science.shtml>
- **Yahoo! Kids Science** features videos, interactive games and internet safety information. <http://kids.yahoo.com/science>
- **BrainPop and BrainPop Jr.** feature animated shorts about a variety of kid-friendly topics, including a science section. This site has a subscription fee. [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)

### Some thoughts on evaluating online resources:

- **Check for understanding.** After your child has had a few minutes to explore a web site, do a quick check for understanding: What is the website about? What have you read so far? Check for higher level thinking as well: **How or why** does the machine work in the game?
- **Is it developmentally appropriate?** Kids are drawn to websites that feature content that is easy for them, often in the form of repetitive or overly simple games. Challenge your child to engage with more meaningful high-interest material online.
- **Is it interactive?** Many sites advertise themselves as being "interactive," but few are. What kinds of thinking are happening while your child experiences the site? What are they actually contributing to their own experience?
- **How independent can my child be on this site?** Some sites offer a great activity here or there, but are also full of links to less savory content. When kids are on sites that keep them safer, they can be more independent as they learn to **browse**, an essential skill.