



Experiments

Sesame Street Little Discoverers: Big Fun with Science, Math, and More is a resource to help you and your child explore STEM.

Remember, it's okay to not know the answers to all of her questions. Model a sense of curiosity by saying something like, "That's a great question! I don't know the answer but let's find out together."



HELLO, FAMILIES!

Your child is full of curiosity. She is always observing, questioning, testing her thinking, and collecting information. These are important critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that help set her up for success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

HELP YOUR CHILD TALK ABOUT EXPERIMENTS

- » An experiment is a test that is set up to answer a question.
- » An experiment includes making careful observations. Encourage your child to use "I notice..." and "I wonder..." statements about what she sees around her.
- » A hypothesis is an explanation of why something might be happening. When your child guesses what might be causing something to happen, she is making a hypothesis. Ask, "Why do you think that's happening?"
- » Your child can collect data, or information, by drawing or writing down what she sees.
- » Counting and comparing will help her analyze the results of her experiment.

TRY THIS AT HOME

Pick and choose the activities that work best for you and your child.

Let's Talk. Use these phrases, which foster the kind of thinking used in experiments, as many times as you can this week: "I wonder....," "I think _____, because _____," "I notice...." Give a high-five anytime someone in the family uses these phrases.

Change the Colors. Explore mixing paint colors. Start with two red spots of paint. How does adding blue to one and yellow to another, change the color?

Test Products. Test two products against each other. For example, experiment to see which cleans up a spill better: paper towels or tissues; or experiment to see which utensil is better to eat cereal with: a spoon or a fork.

Explore Water. Experiment by pouring water onto different outdoor surfaces, such as grass, dirt, cement, or brick. Which surfaces absorb the water and which do not?



For more fun ideas, videos, and games, check out sesamestreet.org/STEM on your computer or mobile device.

**EXPERIMENTS**

Observe, Record, Sprout!

TUBE EXPLORATION

Use paper towel tubes to explore experiments. Talk about what a tube and ball can do (roll). Test which is a better roller: a ball or a tube.

WATCH "OBSERVE, RECORD, ANNOY"

In the video, Oscar investigates the question, "What do worms like to squirm on the best?" He sets up an experiment where he observes and records what he discovers. He concludes worms like to squirm on olive oil best.

ACTIVITY

In this investigation, help your child develop the scientific process of observing and recording. Remember, you do not need to know all the answers. Enjoy exploring with your child.

MATERIALS

- » plastic sandwich bag
- » 4–6 lima beans
- » Activity Chart
- » paper towels
- » water
- » crayons

STEPS

1. Help your child write the date and draw a picture of the lima bean on the Activity Chart.
2. Help your child wrap one set of lima beans in a damp paper towel and the other set in a dry paper towel.
3. Put the paper towels with the lima beans inside plastic sandwich bags and seal them tightly.
4. Have your child think about what will happen to the bean.
5. Observe the bean every day and record your observations. Replace the paper towel with a damp towel if it dries. The beans should sprout within 2–3 days.
6. Talk to your child about what plants need to grow. Some plants, like the lima bean, just need water to grow while other plants need soil as well. If your child hypothesizes that the beans would not grow in soil or would grow better in soil, try it out!



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Family Newsletter
Activity Chart



EXPERIMENTS

Observe, Record, Sprout!

Have your child record her observations by drawing the bean on different days.

Day	Wet	Dry

