

Helping your child with *his/her* Science Fair Project: Things a parent may do!

1. Give support, encouragement, and guidance. Always be positive!
2. Make sure your child feels it is his/her project. Make sure the project is primarily the work of the child.
3. Realize that the main purpose of a science fair project is to help your child use and strengthen the basic skills he/she has learned and to develop higher-level skills.
4. Realize that your child may need help in understanding, acquiring, and using the science process skills (researching, organizing, measuring, calculating, reporting, demonstrating, experimenting, collecting, constructing, and presenting.)
5. Realize that your child may be using some reading, writing, math, and social skills for the first time to solve problems creatively.
6. Realize that the teacher works with anywhere from 20 to 650 students and that may make it difficult to give a large amount of time to your child's project.
7. Help your child plan a mutually agreed upon schedule, to prevent a last minute project and a disrupted household. A 4 to 6 week plan works best.
8. Help your child design a safe project that is not hazardous in any way.
9. Provide transportation to such places as libraries, nature centers, and universities to help the child find project information.
10. Help the child develop the necessary technical skills and/or help the child do the technical work such as building the exhibit and doing the photography.
11. Help your child understand that science is not a subject, but a way of looking at the world around us.
12. Look over the project to check for good grammar, neatness, spelling, and accuracy. Make suggestions on how it can be corrected.
13. Help find the necessary materials to complete the project.
14. Realize that a good project doesn't have to cost a lot of money. Many times a simpler project that is well displayed and explained is best.
15. Help the child keep a record (log book) of all he/she does and list the references used.
16. Encourage your child to consult with the teacher if problems arise.
17. Help transport your child and the science project to and from the science fairs.
18. Do not worry if your child does not win a blue ribbon. The skills the child has gained are worth all of the effort. Your time together is valuable, too.
19. Feel a sense of pride and satisfaction when the project and the science fair are finished. Share this with your child. You have both earned it.
20. Enjoy!