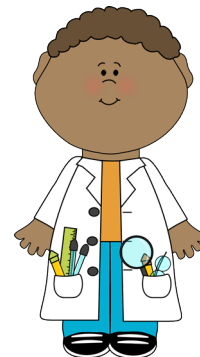


## Become a Scientist: First Grade

### Careful exploration of the environment helps your child:

- Make and record observations
- Begin to sort, describe, and compare things that she observes
- Find patterns in her observations and think about what they could mean



### Ideas to try with your child:

- Explore with your child an area near your home. Describe the different plants and animals that you see. Take pictures if you can. Visit the same area again during a different season to see how it has changed.
- Fold and fly many types of paper airplanes. Observe how each design may fly differently.
- Take large and small balls to the park. Roll them down the slide one at a time. Use a timer or stopwatch to document which goes the fastest. Take a large tape measure and document the distance traveled.

### If your child is struggling:

- Do a simple experiment together: Choose several clear drinking glasses or jars of different sizes. Fill a measuring cup with 1/2 cup colored water. Pour into each container. Notice how the water appears to be a different amount in each container. Pour back in original measuring cup to see if it has changed.
- Read *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* by Dr. Seuss and then make some Oobleck from cornstarch and water. [www.instructable.com/id/Oobleck](http://www.instructable.com/id/Oobleck)

### Going further:

- Plant a garden together. Have your child keep a notebook to record their observations about how the garden changes over time.
- Visit a planetarium, science center, or children's museum with your child.
- Look for activities online such as:
- Family Science.org: [http://www.familyscience.org/sample\\_activities.html](http://www.familyscience.org/sample_activities.html)
- PBS: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/science/activities/>.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children in First Grade** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Develop skills with sorting, describing, comparing, and recording observations." *Learning About My World, First Grade*, pg 104.