

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:

Every part of a plant has a job to do.

The roots absorb water and nutrients, usually from the ground, and anchor the plant in place.

The stem transports water and nutrients around the plant and keeps the plant upright, holding leaves and flowers in their place.

Leaves use sunlight, water and air to produce food for the plant. This is called photosynthesis.

Flowers play a large part in the life cycle of a plant. They attract pollinators (usually insects) to a plant for pollination which allows a plant to reproduce and form seeds.

The seeds may be in fruits or berries.

The seeds must be dispersed for them to have a chance of germination and to grow. Seeds can be dispersed through wind, animals, water or explosion.

Plants have requirements for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from the soil and room to grow). These requirements can vary from plant to plant.

Vocabulary:

functions

nutrients

Nutrition

air

transport (water)

absorb

photosynthesis

life cycle

pollination (insect, wind)

pollinator

pollen

seed formation

seed dispersal

reproduce

dispersal (wind, animal, water, explosion)

Celery science

Look carefully at the end of a piece of celery. What do you see? What part of a plant is the celery? Get a yogurt pot or paper cup and fill it a third full with water. Add a few drops of food colouring. Carefully put the celery into the water the widest end down. Leave it a few hours and then overnight. Do you notice anything? Why has that happened? <https://www.stem.org.uk/rxytm>

Take a walk

Go for a walk in your local area. Look for evidence of flowers, seeds, berries and fruits. Did you find some plants that would disperse their seeds through wind, animals, water or even explosion?

Flower focus

Observe a flower carefully in your garden or in your local area. Can you see the pollen? Does it look the same as the pollen on a different plant? Watch carefully. Are the flowers visited by any pollinators?

Plant dissection

Find a plant that your parents/carers say is ok to dig up, root and all. Carefully dissect it into its parts: roots, stem, leaves, flowers. What are the functions of each of these parts? Can you find a different plant to dissect. Do all the parts look the same? Why do you think that is?