

Why Science Research Competitions are Important?

Are your students asking "why" it matters? Understanding "why" science fairs are important and being able to talk with your child about the value of science projects will make you more comfortable talking about science in everyday life with your family.

A science fair project can give your child the first chance to design his or her own learning experience, one that allows him or her to innovate, just as scientists do in the real world. Students will be able to explore personal interests to select an area for his or her science fair project, as well as learn the scientific method to answer a question. Each student will also develop skills above and beyond science proficiency, such as:

- **Reading Comprehension and Writing:** Doing background research and writing a research paper
- **Math:** Creating graphs and performing data analysis
- **Time Management:** Planning a multi-step project
- **Communication:** Presenting and explaining the science fair project
- **Ethics Understanding:** Learning about plagiarism and the importance of credit and citations

For additional information about the value of science fairs, view these insightful Science Buddies webpages:

- [Success Lies Beyond the Test in Education](#)
- [The Value of a Science Fair Project](#)

How Much Parent Involvement is Appropriate?

It can be challenging as a parent to find the balance between being involved with and supportive of a child's science fair project and helping *too much*. Our information on [appropriate parent involvement](#) makes it easy to be involved at the right level. Letting your child explore, observe, make mistakes, ask questions—and seek the answers—is at the heart of the science fair process.

In the [Straight Talk for Parents & Teachers](#) video from the [Archimedes Initiative](#) (<http://archimedesinitiative.org/>), science fair students talk about the ways parents can be involved and supportive during a science project.

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/parent_resources.shtml