

LITTLE POND SCIENTISTS

Conversations With Pond Investigators

A Caregiver's Guide to Exploring
Science Together



Helping young scientists think,
question, and discover.

The Pond Investigator Mindset

Pond Investigators are ready to think and work like scientists!



OBSERVE
I look closely and notice important details.



GATHER EVIDENCE
I collect clues and information.



SUPPORT CLAIMS
I use evidence to explain my ideas.



EXPLAIN THINKING
I share how I know what I think.

Scientists ask questions.
Scientists look for answers.
Scientists never stop wondering!

How to Use This Guide



Talk together.
Use the conversation starters to spark discussion.



Explore together.
Look closely at the pictures, read the text, and investigate.



Think like scientists.
Encourage your child to gather evidence and explain ideas.



Enjoy the journey.
There is no rush.
Curiosity is the most important science tool!

Remember
Every child learns at their own pace.
Move between levels as needed.
Follow your child's curiosity.



Using the Pages: An Example



DUCK EGGS
Ducks lay eggs in their nests.



EGG DETECTIVE
Look at the eggs.
What do you notice?

Which egg do you think belongs to a duck? Why?

Big Idea
Ducks lay eggs that help their babies grow.

Conversation Starters

- What do you notice about the eggs?
- How are the eggs the same? How are they different?
- Which egg do you think belongs to a duck?
- What evidence helped you decide?

Extend the Investigation

- Compare real or toy eggs.
- Look for other animals that lay eggs.
- Draw a duck egg and label its features.
- Go outside and look for nests or places animals might build nests.

Science Talk Tip
Ask open-ended questions that encourage your child to think deeply and explain their ideas.



Question Toolbox

Use these questions throughout any page!

What do you notice?

What do you think?



Great scientists ask great questions!

What changed?

What pattern do you notice?

What evidence supports that idea?

What conclusion can you make?

Extension Ideas

Take learning beyond the page!



Go Outside
Look for evidence in nature.
What do you see, hear, or find?





Read More
Find books about ducks, ponds, and wildlife.





Create
Draw, paint, or build something you discovered.





Investigate
Try a simple experiment or observation.
What happens?



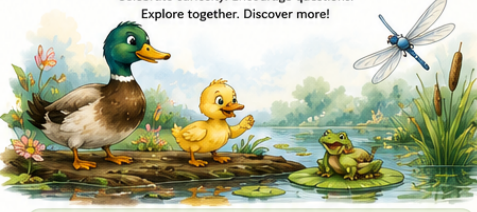
A Glimpse of Each Level

The same science topics. Different thinking challenges.

Tadpoles Discover	Dragonflies Notice	Pond Sprouts Understand	Pond Explorers Explain	Pond Investigators Investigate
 THE DUCK Can you find the duck?	 DUCK FAMILIES What do you notice?	 WHY NESTS? Why do ducks build nests?	 DUCK ADAPTATIONS How do duck adaptations help them survive?	 INVESTIGATE: DUCK EGGS What evidence supports your conclusion?
Focus on finding and naming.	Focus on observing and comparing.	Focus on understanding and why questions.	Focus on explaining and connecting ideas.	Focus on evidence and scientific thinking.

Keep the Conversation Going!

Celebrate curiosity. Encourage questions. Explore together. Discover more!



Every great scientist begins with curiosity.
Thank you for exploring and discovering with your young scientist!

