

LITTLE POND SCIENTISTS

Conversations With Pond Explorers

A Caregiver's Guide to Exploring Science Together



The Pond Explorer Mindset

Pond Explorers are ready to go deeper! They connect ideas and explain how things in nature work.



OBSERVE

I look closely and notice details in nature.



CONNECT IDEAS

I think about how things are related.



EXPLAIN

I explain how or why things happen.

Explorers ask "how" and "why." They connect observations. They share their ideas.



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 explain ideas and connect them.



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.



Helping young scientists observe, connect ideas, and explain the natural world.

Using the Pages: An Example

DUCK HABITATS
Ducks live in many places.
Where have you seen ducks?



HABITAT CONNECTIONS
A habitat provides what animals need to survive.
What does a duck need from its habitat?

- water
- food
- shelter
- space



Big Idea
A habitat provides what ducks need to survive.

Conversation Starters

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do ducks need from their habitat?
- How does the habitat help ducks survive?
- How are land and water habitats alike or different?

Extend the Investigation

- Visit a pond or stream. What do you see?
- Look for places animals can find shelter.
- Draw a habitat and label what animals need there.
- Compare two habitats. How are they different?

Science Talk Tip
Ask "how" and "why" questions that invite your child to explain their thinking.



Question Toolbox

Use these questions throughout any page!



Extension Ideas

Take learning beyond the page!



Go Outside

Look for signs of wildlife. What do you notice in their habitat?



Read More

Find books about ducks, habitats, and wildlife.



Create

Make a habitat collage or build a model.



Investigate

Try a simple experiment or observation. What happens?



A Glimpse of Each Level

The same science topics. Different thinking challenges.

Tadpoles — Discover



Focus on finding and naming.

Dragonflies — Notice



Focus on observing and comparing.

Pond Sprouts — Understand



Focus on understanding and why questions.

Pond Explorers — Explain



Focus on explaining and connecting ideas.

Pond Investigators — Investigate



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!



Wonder. Observe. Connect. Explain. That's what scientists do!

