

# Science Secrets: Keep It Simple!

**By Maggie Hogan**

## **What constitutes a Good Science Curriculum?**

Cathy Duffy, author of 100 Top Picks For Homeschool Curriculum writes: “Field Trips, experiments, observation, and nature collections will all stimulate interest [in science] in children. They should be a major part of our science curriculum . . .

Our goals in teaching science for elementary levels (K-6) should be:

To turn children on to science

To expose children to many of the numerous aspects of science

To teach children the foundations of scientific method - orderly thinking and forming, testing, and evaluating hypotheses.”

### **Secret # 1**

**Elementary science should be Fun**

### **Secret # 2**

**What We Perform We Remember**

### **Secret # 3**

**Attitude is Everything (Yours!)**

## **Simple Science Unit**

Pick a topic. Here are several suggestions:

- Biology
- Rocks, minerals, and fossils
- Machines & motion
- Solar System
- Energy

- Human body
- Heat, light, & sound
- Weather
- Kitchen chemistry
- Nature and environment
- Creation
- Animals
- Ocean/seas

Gather an assortment of resource books, colorful picture and informational children's books, games, and videos.

Encourage the kids to read look at and read as much as they wish. Take special note of any strong interest and encourage it.

Plan experiments, activities, crafts, and recipes to use.

Make a list of trips to take.

Using the above materials, make a plan for the next eight weeks.

Keep a book list and a record of your studies--either one family notebook, or individual student notebooks. Don't forget to take pictures!

Finish the unit with a family fun night based on your topic. Kids can show what they learned.

### **Creative Ways to Present Information Learned (or How NOT to do a book report!)**

Poem  
Song  
Skit  
Diorama  
Picture book  
ABC Book

Video  
Mural  
Computer  
Multi-media presentation  
Oral report with visuals  
Games or Game show  
Book jacket  
Puppet show  
Audiotape

One of Cathy Duffy's 100 Top picks is: [\*Christian Kids Explore Biology\*](#) by Stephanie Redmond \$29.95 1st – 6th grades. Christian, complete, and teacher friendly. Includes both hands-on and elements of the classical approach.

New! [\*Christian Kids Explore Chemistry\*](#) 5th – 8th grades. \$29.95. Watch for *Christian Kids Explore Earth & Space* summer of 2005.