

From: [Government of British Columbia](#)
To: info@bccpac.bc.ca
Subject: THE PARENT GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL SCIENCE PROJECTS
Date: October 2, 2010 10:01:26 AM

INFORMATION BULLETIN

2010ALMD0050-001189

Oct. 2, 2010

Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

THE PARENT GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL SCIENCE PROJECTS

VICTORIA - Your son or daughter has just arrived home from school, overflowing with enthusiasm for their latest assignment - designing and building a project for science class. Here are some helpful tips to keep projects on track and interest levels high.

- Help get things organized. Look over the assignment, and talk about what the objectives of the project are with your budding researcher. Discuss topics of interest, and suggest an early look to determine what resources are available to help with each. This will help to bring focus to the project, and provide a quick start organizing any needed references, tools or supplies.
- Help the student set a reasonable work schedule for their project, with dates and objectives. This will help to keep the project in focus, and ensure the workload remains manageable.
- Science is about discovery. Some of the best inventions and innovations have happened by accident, or after many, many failed experiments. While it's great to show interest in their project, offer encouragement and even suggest resources, it is also important to allow each student to do their own work. A great report about a failed experiment can be a much better learning experience.
- Still stuck for an idea? There are many great on-line sources offering student support for science fairs and projects, including:
 - The Internet Public Library - www.ipl.org/div/projectguide
 - Science Buddies - www.sciencebuddies.org/
 - Youth Science Canada - <http://www.ysf.ca/Kids/>
 - Canada-Wide Virtual Science Fair - <http://www.virtualsciencefair.com/>

The Year of Science is a school year program to showcase how science works, who scientists are, the kinds of work they do, why science matters to our everyday lives and our communities, and how young people can have an exciting career in those fields. Discover the excitement of science by taking part in the many activities and events scheduled throughout the province. Find out what's going on near you at www.YearofScienceBC.ca. Updates on Year of Science activities are also available on Twitter and Facebook.

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