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On February 27 PACE (parents of academically talented students) hosted their annual science evening at Homestead. Families from all schools in the district enjoyed an evening of fun participating in science activities. There is no school subject quite as ripe for family fun as science. And it's an area where children need extra enrichment now, more than ever, as schools focus more intently on math and reading as they work to meet the standards of No Child Left Behind. That's where families can make a big difference in their child's learning, and have a great time doing it. The following are several resources put together by the National Association of Elementary School Principals:

Puzzles, games, and science fair ideas are just a few of the resources in this science-dedicated site for children and their families. www.sciencenewsforkids.org

From developing "accidental scientists" in the kitchen to exploring human perception, this site is chock-full of some of the most fun science activities ever assembled. www.exploratorium.edu

Find interactive games galore on geography, astronomy, and zoology. <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Games>

Remember that old game Operation? Kids can play a virtual version online at this site, while learning how different systems of the body work. This fun site, from London's Centre of the Cell, will keep school kids (and their parents) entertained and informed. www.centreofthecell.org/centre/?page_id=301

This great resource for families offers dozens of safe, educational home experiments using materials easily found around the house. It's divided into categories, including water, structures, the five senses, patterns, life sciences, forces and energy, engineering, and chemistry. <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci>

Check out the cool resources available at this site from the land down under, the National Science and Technology Centre in Australia. www.questacon.edu.au/activities

From egg-speriments to fun tricks like the giraffe spit experiment, this great site lets kids have fun learning through experimenting, discovering things like how polar bears stay warm and the ecological consequences of oil spills. www.sandiegozoo.org/education/science_experiments.html

Games, puzzles, and activities about the Earth and the solar system can be found at this site. www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/games/games.html

Enlisting the help of Tinker Bell and the rat from the movie Ratatouille, the US Department of Energy provides a great selection of games and activities on energy and conservation. www.eere.energy.gov/kids/games.html

If you ever finish doing all the cool science experiments on this site, you can check out the other activities that get kids' brains engaged too. www.funology.com/laboratory

On Television

The Discovery Kids Channel is probably the best source of science-oriented television shows for kids these days, offering both *Bindi the Jungle Girl* and *Grossology*.

Books

The Magic School Bus series, a classic collection of books, lets kids follow Ms. Frizzle into the bizarre and amazing world of science, from inside the body to outer space.

Looking for a great collection of activities to do at home? Get your hands on either of these: *The Kids' Science Book: Creative Experiences for Hands-On Fun* or *The Everything Kids' Science Experiments Book: Boil Ice, Float Water, Measure Gravity-Challenging the World Around You!*

Magazines

Children love getting their very own magazines in the mail during the year. Depending on the age of your children, any of these will open their eyes to the science and the world around them: *Click Magazine*, *ASK*, *Odyssey Magazine*, *Ranger Rick*, and *National Geographic Kids*.

Build bonds with your children by exploring some of these sites online. Go to the library to pick up back issues of the magazines or copies of the books, and set some time aside to help your children discover the wonders of the scientific world. Learning has never been so much fun!

Have a wonderful week! And remember to take some time to read to or with your child every day and to have fun with math activities!