

Season 6 Webcast: Inspiring Pre-School Scientists

What is iQ: smartparent?

iQ: smartparent is an Emmy-winning multimedia television and web series designed for parents that will empower them with new knowledge, tools, and abilities to successfully guide their children through the changing landscape of digital media and technology. It's a growing community of caregivers, national experts, educators, and parent bloggers who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to the development of their children. *iQ: smartparent* was created by WQED Multimedia in 2012.

About this Episode

Learn all about the importance of active play, exploration, and experimentation for preschoolers! Watch some simple science activities you can try at home. Hear from educators who are exploring PBS resources in the iQsmartparent studio for exciting demonstrations; and hear advice from experts that will help parents raise curious, science-minded kids in this special webcast!

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think science is a difficult subject for parents to teach their children?
2. What are some supports which you think would be helpful for parents so that they feel comfortable engaging in science with their children?
3. What are alternative responses to give to your child to encourage inquiry when you don't know the answer? Make predictions, observations, or suggestions to encourage ways to find the answer together.
4. What are some local organizations near you which provide programs that encourage science exploration? Does your child's school, local library, or museum have any opportunities?
5. Every day is filled with opportunities to learn science--without expensive materials. Children can be introduced to science just by observing what goes on around them. Try selecting a few activities at random such as baking a cake, seeing how long a flower takes to bloom, or recording the changes in the moon over the course of the month. What are some questions you can ask? What can you record and learn from your findings?



About the Guest



Shelley Pasnik

Vice President | Director, Center for Children and Technology

Pasnik investigates how technology can improve teaching and learning within classrooms, schools, and communities. During her career, she has helped shape national policy on educational media, developed public education campaigns, and guided the production of children's educational services.

At EDC, Pasnik leads the organization's early childhood initiatives. In this role, she collaborates with other EDC experts in children's health, socio-emotional development, literacy, and STEM learning to expand our collective impact, both nationally and globally. She has led several multi-year research and development projects that have advanced the knowledge base about what works in educational technology, especially within families and schools in underserved communities. She writes extensively for a range of organizations and companies and edited the book, *Getting Ready to Learn: Creating Effective, Educational Children's Media*, which includes a foreword by Sir Ken Robinson and Dr. Alice Wilder. A spokesperson for the thoughtful integration of digital media in education, she is regularly featured on radio, TV, and Internet news outlets, including the *New York Times*, Reuters, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Axios*, *EdWeek*, NPR, and the *Washington Post*.

Pasnik's career began in Washington, D.C., at the Center for Media Education, where she regularly testified before the Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission. She holds an MA from the University of Maryland, College Park.

www.edc.org/shelley-pasnik

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Online Resources

Empowering Learning Through Science Exploration | PBS Blog

www.pbs.org/education/blog/empowering-learning-through-science-exploration

How to Talk to Kids About Science

www.sciencemag.org/careers/2014/06/how-talk-kids-about-science

Increasing Science Literacy in Early Childhood | The Connection between Home and School www.aft.org/ae/winter2018-2019/vahey_vidiksis_adair

Parents, Children and Science Learning: A Q&A with Shelley Pasnik

www.cpb.org/spotlight/parents-children-and-science-learning-qa-shelley-pasnik

Science | PBS Parents www.pbs.org/parents/learn-grow/all-ages/science

Science in the Home Activities | U.S. Department of Education

www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/science/part_pg7.html#p7

Science-U @ Home | Hands-on Science for Your Backyard & Beyond <https://science-u.org/>

Simple directions from parents can guide children's discovery

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190314123135.htm

STEM Occupations: Past, Present, and Future

www.bls.gov/spotlight/2017/science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem-occupations-past-present-and-future/pdf/science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem-occupations-past-present-and-future.pdf

Study Reveals Parents Worried About Teaching Science To Their Kids

www.ket.org/education/news/parents-worried-over-teaching-science/

Supporting Parents to Support Science

<https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Supporting-Parents-to-Support-Science>

Talking to children about STEM fields boosts test scores and career interest

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170118083101.htm

Tips for Busy Parents | National Science Teachers Association

www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx

What Parents Can Gain From Learning the Science of Talking to Kids

www.kqed.org/mindshift/42177/what-parents-can-gain-from-learning-the-science-of-talking-to-kids

What Parents Talk About When They Talk About Learning: A National Survey About Young Children and Science

www.sri.com/work/publications/what-parents-talk-about-when-they-talk-about-learning-national-survey-about-young

What Parents Talk About When They Talk About Learning: A National Survey About Young Children and Science | Report

www.edc.org/what-parents-talk-about-when-they-talk-about-learning

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