The Overarching Philosophy of Family Science

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Family Science is an aeronautics-based program designed to involve families working together on several different hands-on activities during evening meetings at school. Sometimes special demonstrations and guest speakers are included in the programs. Also, ideas are given to parents on how to do experiments and projects at home with their children. These can be done using materials readily available in most homes. Hopefully, as a result of the Family Science programs, parents and students will realize that science can be fun.

When parents are involved, children achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents', education level. There is a direct correlation between parent involvement and student achievement. Some of the benefits of parent involvement include higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and more consistently completed homework. In programs designed to involve parents in full partnerships, the children who are furthest behind often make the greatest gains. Children exhibit more positive attitudes and motivation toward school and have a more positive self-concept when parents are involved in their education.

The benefits of involving parents in education are not confined to the early school years. Significant gains at all ages and grad levels can be achieved when parents are involved in their children’s education. Junior high and high school students whose parents remain involved make better transitions, maintain the quality of their
work, and develop more realistic plans for their future. Children from diverse cultural backgrounds tend to do better when parents and professionals collaborate to bridge the gap between the culture at home and the learning institution.

The purpose of Family Science® is not to make parents scientists or the primary teacher of their child, but to provide an opportunity for families to work together and in an interesting and enjoyable manner to learn more about science topics. Of course, by doing such activities, it will become more apparent that science is not only for school, but that it is related to the real, everyday lives of everyone. Doing such activities provides additional time for the learning of science and will increase student learning.