

Cause-and-Effect

Children learn about cause-and-effect from their own trial-and-error and by watching the actions of others.



FLIP THE SWITCH

Children of all ages learn how to make things happen from watching what other people are doing, even if those people make mistakes or if things don't work perfectly.



TRY THIS!

When you notice cause-and-effect relationships, describe them. Buttons and switches provide great learning opportunities. Say, "It's dark, let's turn on the lights! What happens when we flip this switch? Oh! The lights turn on!"



SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

Cause-and-effect happens between objects and between people. Figuring out how to cause people to change their behavior is important for children's social development.



TRY THIS!

Cook or bake something together. Model and describe cause-and-effect relationships as you go. For example, say, "Can you bring me the red bowl?" Or, "My hands are sticky and I can't touch the spoon. Will you mix it for me?"



GUESS WHAT!

Children learn about cause-and-effect at home and in the classroom all the time. Usually, there is no need to use any special tools, toys, or preparation.



TRY THIS!

Make predictions. With younger children, narrate your thoughts. Say, "I wonder what will happen if ___" With older children, turn it into a discussion. "What do you think will happen if ___? What actually happened? Why? How?"