

Supporting Students in the Oliphant Science Awards - A guide for parents and teachers

DO...	AVOID...
IDEA DEVELOPMENT	
Encourage your child/student to share and discuss their ideas. Offer open-ended or question-based feedback such as "Have you thought about ...?"	Pressuring your child/student to choose a particular idea or provide closed feedback such as "You need to do this ...".
Help your child/student think through the pros and cons of different options for their project.	Making the decisions for your child/student – encourage them to take the lead on their project.
ACKNOWLEDGING CONTRIBUTIONS	
Encourage your child/student to acknowledge all help and assistance they've received. Recognising the ideas, work and contributions of others is an important part of science.	Forgetting that projects must be the work of the child/student, and encourage them to acknowledge any support they've received
RESEARCH AND LEARNING	
Support your child/student to research and learn the science understandings or skills they need to complete their project.	Being the only source of knowledge or skills – encourage your child/student to explore other resources.
SAFETY AND ETHICS	
Assist your child/student with hazardous activities if necessary, particularly for younger participants.	Completing project activities for your child/student – step in only where safety or supervision is needed.
COMMUNICATION	
Encourage your child/student to present their project in their own words.	Editing or rewriting your child/student's work.
TIME MANAGEMENT	
Encourage your child/student to plan their work in stages and set their own goals.	Taking over their planning or leaving everything to the last minute.
TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES	
Guide your child/student to use reliable sources and appropriate tools.	Downloading or creating resources for them without their involvement.
PERSISTENCE AND RESILIENCE	
Encourage your child/student to keep trying if things don't work the first time.	Rushing to fix problems for them – give them space to try different solutions.
CELEBRATING EFFORT	
Celebrate the effort, learning and creativity shown in completing a project.	Making success only about winning an award – celebrate learning, creativity and effort too.

Appropriate acknowledgment of assistance: It is anticipated that students may receive assistance in planning and developing their projects. Each entry is to clearly identify which aspects of the project were devised and carried out by the student alone and which aspects received assistance. The type and degree of any assistance should also be clearly noted. If the details of such assistance are not clearly stated, then the judges, in judging the entry, will use their discretion and experience of working with students in making judgments.