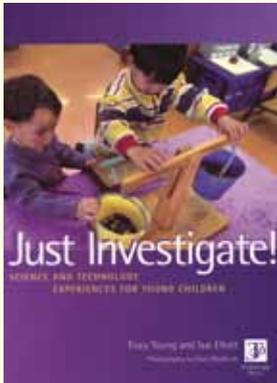


## Resource reviews

by Lisa Sobreviñas

### **Just investigate! Science and technology experiences for young children.**



Early childhood educators who are unsure about introducing science experiences into their everyday curriculum will find *Just Investigate!* by Tracy Young and Sue Elliott very helpful. This book of science and technology experiences for young children is all

about undertaking experiments which will foster a sense of confidence and enthusiasm for science.

The book has chapters which feature simple experiments on physical science (the world around us), chemical science (changing substances), problem solving with technology (how things work) and using technology (tools and machines). Each chapter ends with 'Further Ideas' which suggest more experiments educators may want to try as follow up activities.

*Just Investigate!* offers practical guidelines and suggestions which can be followed to make science experiences more fun – not just for the children but for educators as well.

The book emphasises an interactive approach to learning about science. Educators need no formal science qualifications to appreciate what this book encourages, which is to creatively teach science and nature and overcome any anxiety towards these subjects.

Have you ever stopped and thought about how everything around you can be related back to science and technology?

It's true! Just investigate ■

Young, T., & Elliott, S. (2003). *Just investigate! Science and technology experiences for young children*. Croydon, Vic: Tertiary Press.

### **Amelia Ellicott's garden**

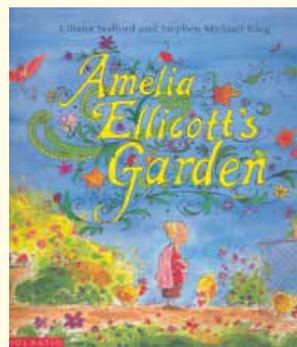
Amelia Ellicott is most proud of two things: her chickens and her backyard garden. However, aside from her cat Mustafah, she has no one to share them with. Luckily, Amelia's house in Sampson Street is next to a block of flats where her neighbours overlook her garden.

Amelia's neighbours, who are all from different countries and cultural backgrounds, are strangers to lonely Amelia because she has always kept to herself. This is until one fateful afternoon when a storm comes and Amelia's garden and chicken house roof are blown away by strong winds.

Amelia tries to clean up in the pouring rain when her neighbours come to help her. Amelia is grateful for their assistance and in the end they all pitch in to rebuild Amelia's garden, adding their own ideas to make it more inviting and beautiful.

There are colourful illustrations in this delightful and touching story about helping people in our community, even if we don't know them. *Amelia Ellicott's Garden* explores the importance of having people in our lives and striking up friendships.

This book may also be a useful resource for educators to prompt conversations with children



about disasters and helping those in need. Educators can use this story to help children learn that a community that comes together during difficult times is a resilient community which is better able to cope with misfortunes ■

Stafford, L., & King, S.M. (2000). *Amelia Ellicott's garden*. Lindfield, NSW: Scholastic Australia Pty Limited.

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