

# Your First Week Investigation Planner

Start Your Plant Detective Journey with Confidence!

Welcome, Detective Families! This planner helps you launch your investigation journey with achievable, exciting activities. Each day offers Quick Start activities organised by time commitment - choose what fits YOUR family's energy and schedule. There's absolutely no pressure to do everything! Remember: Success is choosing ONE activity and completing it together. That's it!

## Week 1 at a Glance

Monday	5-Minute Discoveries	Build confidence with quick wins
Tuesday	Observation Day	Learn to notice plant details
Wednesday	15-Minute Investigations	Start simple experiments
Thursday	Documentation Practice	Record your findings
Friday	Weekend Project Setup	Plan longer investigations
Weekend	Family Investigation Time	Deeper exploration together

## Monday Motivation: 5-Minute Discoveries

**Goal:** Build excitement with instant success!

**Choose ONE Quick Activity:**

- Seed sorting challenge using egg cartons (Ages 3+)
- Magnifying glass treasure hunt around the house (Ages 4+)
- "What floats?" kitchen investigation with plant materials (Ages 5+)
- Herb sniff test - identify herbs by smell alone (Ages 6+)

**Success Looks Like:** Your child smiling, asking questions, wanting to do more!

**Parent Tip:** Keep it brief! Five minutes of joy beats thirty minutes of struggle.

## Tuesday: Observation Power

**Goal:** Develop detective observation skills

**Choose ONE Activity:**

- Draw one houseplant in detail (any age - adapt complexity)
- Photograph the same plant from 5 different angles (Ages 7+)
- Create a "plant parts" treasure hunt (Ages 4+)
- Make leaf rubbings and compare textures (Ages 5+)

**Success Looks Like:** Your child notices details they hadn't seen before!

**Documentation:** Take photos or save drawings for your portfolio.

## Wednesday Wonder: 15-Minute Investigations

**Goal:** Complete your first real investigation!

**Choose ONE Investigation:**

- Colourful Celery setup (see Plant Science booklet, Ages 6+)
- Create plant pressing station (Ages 5+)
- Start sprouting jar investigation (Ages 4+)
- Build a simple seed viewer (Ages 7+)

**Success Looks Like:** Investigation is set up and children know what to observe tomorrow!

**Parent Tip:** Use the Investigation Record Sheet from our free resources!

## Thursday: Documentation Day

**Goal:** Learn to record findings like real scientists

**Today's Focus:**

- Check yesterday's investigation - what changed?
- Practice using the Investigation Record Sheet
- Take "before and now" photos
- Measure and record (heights, colours, changes)

**Success Looks Like:** Any form of recording - drawing, photos, dictated notes to parents!

**Parent Tip:** Their observations are perfect exactly as they are. No "improving" needed

## Friday Focus: Weekend Project Setup

**Goal:** Prepare a longer weekend investigation

Choose ONE Weekend Project:

- Set up Root Viewer Garden (see Plant Science booklet, Ages 6+)
- Begin Compost Column (see Advanced Plant Science, Ages 9+)
- Create a Seed Germination Race (Ages 5+)
- Design a Mini Greenhouse (Ages 7+) Today's Tasks:
- Gather materials
- Read instructions together
- Set up workspace
- Plan tomorrow's start time

**Success Looks Like:** Everything ready to launch tomorrow without stress!

## Weekend: Family Investigation Time

**Goal:** Deeper exploration with family time

### Saturday:

- Launch your chosen weekend project
- Work together for 30-45 minutes
- Take detailed photos of setup
- Create investigation prediction together

### Sunday:

- Review the week's discoveries
- Organise photos and records
- Plan next week's investigations
- Celebrate what you've learned!

**Success Looks Like:** Shared family time, learning together, proud children showing their work!

### Week 1 Success Tracker

	Achievement	Notes
	Set up investigation station	
	Complete first 5-minute discovery	
	Start one longer experiment	
	Take photos of findings	
	Use an Investigation Record Sheet	
	Plan Week 2 investigations	

**Remember: This is YOUR family's journey. Adapt freely!**  
**If life happens and you miss a day, just pick up where you left off.**  
**Progress over perfection every single time!**