

# The Messy Show

## What is iQ: smartparent?

*iQ: smartparent* is an Emmy-winning multimedia television and web series designed for parents that will empower them with new knowledge, tools, and abilities to successfully guide their children through the changing landscape of digital media and technology. It's a growing community of caregivers, national experts, educators, and parent bloggers who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to the development of their children. *iQ: smartparent* was created by WQED Multimedia in 2012.

## About this Episode

*Sensory play* is any activity that stimulates a child's sense of touch, smell, taste, sight, and hearing. It is an essential part of a child's development *and* it gives children the freedom to be creative. However, parents need to make peace with the fact that sensory play is usually *messy* – and that's a good thing! In this lively episode, learn all about helping children investigate, create, discover, and develop through gloriously *messy* activities. We also understand that all of that mess needs to be cleaned up eventually, so this episode also includes a segment on cleaning tips that are safe for kids, pets, and the environment!

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think parents sometimes get nervous about exploring science with their children?
2. What are some science resources you can take your child to?
3. Cooking is a science and a life skill. How can you get your children involved in this everyday process?
4. What would need to happen for you to feel comfortable exploring science with your children?
5. Check out some of the resources in the resources section and try one of the experiments out! How was it? Was it scary, fun, easy or all of the above? Did your child enjoy it?

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## About the Guests



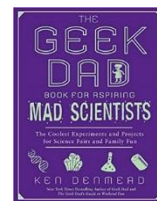
**Alyssa Moore** | Intermediate Unit 1's STEM Curriculum Project Coordinator

Alyssa Moore began her career with Intermediate Unit 1(IU1) in 2014 after graduating from California University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and Biology certification for grades 7-12. She served as a middle school and high school science teacher in their alternative education school for three years while earning her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Currently, as STEM Curriculum Project Coordinator for IU1, Alyssa Moore leads and supports curriculum opportunities within the curriculum department and partners, and she acts as a project manager for curriculum initiatives. She provides support to teachers of 25 school districts in Washington, Fayette, and Greene counties as well as IU1's three special education and alternative education schools in areas of STEM, technology integration, and computer science through professional development opportunities.



**Emily Bierer** works for the Carnegie Science Center in the Live Demonstration Theaters Department. Emily is coming up on her 5 year anniversary of being with the Science Center and has her Masters in Biology. Behind the scenes Emily works on developing new science programming for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. On stage, she conducts programs on a wide range of science topics - from explosive chemistry experiments, smashing physics demonstrations, and everything in between! She is always cooking up new science fun! Her favorite part of working at the science center is showing kids how exciting science can be and how it helps us with everyday life.

## Online Resources



The Geek Dad Book for Aspiring Mad Scientists: The Coolest Experiments and Projects for Science Fairs and Family Fun by Ken Denmead

Green Cleaning [www.go-gba.org/resources/green-building-methods/green-cleaning-products/](http://www.go-gba.org/resources/green-building-methods/green-cleaning-products/)

DIY for Safe & Healthy Cleaning <http://womenforahealthyenvironment.org/what-we-do/healthy-homes/do-it-yourself.html>

Science-U: Hands-on Science for Your Backyard and Beyond <https://science-u.org/>

Science Experiments for Kids [www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/](http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/)

Ruff Ruffman Kitchen Chemistry [pbslearningmedia.org/collection/kitchen-chemistry/](http://pbslearningmedia.org/collection/kitchen-chemistry/)

50 Easy Science Experiments for Kids Using Household Stuff  
<https://mommypoppins.com/kids/50-easy-science-experiments-for-kids-fun-educational-activities-using-household-stuff>

The Importance of Messy Play for Physical Development  
[www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/blog/2018/06/messy-play-physical-benefits/#:~:targetText=Messy%20play%20is%20extremely%20important,their%20learning%20C%20language%20and%20creativity.](http://www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/blog/2018/06/messy-play-physical-benefits/#:~:targetText=Messy%20play%20is%20extremely%20important,their%20learning%20C%20language%20and%20creativity.)

Messy Play Is Lots Of Fun, But It's Impact On Young Children's Wellbeing Should Be Taken Very Seriously [www.teachwire.net/news/messy-play-is-lots-of-fun-but-its-impact-on-young-childrens-wellbeing-shoul](http://www.teachwire.net/news/messy-play-is-lots-of-fun-but-its-impact-on-young-childrens-wellbeing-shoul)

What Parents Talk About When They Talk About Learning: A National Survey About Young Children and Science  
[https://edc.org/sites/default/files/uploads/EDC\\_SRI\\_What\\_Parents\\_Talk\\_About.pdf](https://edc.org/sites/default/files/uploads/EDC_SRI_What_Parents_Talk_About.pdf)

PBS: Empowering Learning Through Science Exploration  
[www.pbs.org/education/blog/empowering-learning-through-science-exploration](http://www.pbs.org/education/blog/empowering-learning-through-science-exploration)

PBS: Find Ways to Play: Science [www.pbs.org/parents/learn-grow/all-ages/science](http://www.pbs.org/parents/learn-grow/all-ages/science)

How to Be Down with Messy Play and Keep Your Sanity  
<https://tinkergarten.com/blog/how-to-be-down-with-messy-play-and-keep-your-sanity>

Cognitive Development and Sensory Play  
[www.canr.msu.edu/news/cognitive\\_development\\_and\\_sensory\\_play](http://www.canr.msu.edu/news/cognitive_development_and_sensory_play)

National Science Teaching Association: Tips for Busy Parents  
[www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx](http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx)

Increasing Science Literacy in Early Childhood  
[www.aft.org/ae/winter2018-2019/vahey\\_vidiksis\\_adair](http://www.aft.org/ae/winter2018-2019/vahey_vidiksis_adair)

Thomas Coram Centre for Children and Families: All About... Messy Play  
[www.keap.org.uk/documents/eyfs\\_messyplay\\_bduffy.pdf](http://www.keap.org.uk/documents/eyfs_messyplay_bduffy.pdf)

NAEYC: The Importance of Sand and Water Play  
[www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/importance-sand-and-water-play](http://www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/importance-sand-and-water-play)

Global Family Research Project: Supporting Parents to Support Science  
<https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Supporting-Parents-to-Support-Science>

iQ: smartparent is created with support from:

