# About Nysgjerrigper

The Nysgjerrigper Science Knowledge Project is organised by the Research Council for children in primary school and their teachers.

Its purpose is to teach children what research involves and focuses on, and to let them try research themselves.

The Nysgjerrigper resources enable school children and teachers to work together on science projects, thereby teaching research skills to children and promoting research recruitment in the long term.

#### Scientific method for school

The Nysgjerrigper Method, a teachers' guide to scientific methods, is a tool designed for primary school teachers and pupils. The objective is to inspire educators and communicators to put scientific working methods on the agenda.

The Nysgjerrigper Method is a tool designed for primary school teachers and pupils. The Research Council offers this programme in attempt to put research and science on the agenda in primary school.

#### Nysgjerrigper's six steps to research

The method is a simplified version of the hypothetical deductive method of research.

- 1. I wonder why
- 2. Why is it like this?
- 3. Draw up a plan
- 4. Gathering information
- 5. What we found out
- 6. Tell everyone else

## 1. I wonder why

You can wonder about absolutely anything! In fact, a curious scientist questions pretty much everything. It is really important to your research that you learn to ask good questions, so take your time at this stage. Maybe it would be a good idea to start by asking a question that can be answered right there in your own home town?

# 2. Why is it like this?

Try to figure out the answer to your question by asking: What might the cause be? Can it be because...? This is called a hypothesis, which is like a 'possible' explanation. A hypothesis can also be a statement. You can then do further research to determine whether it is true or false. But don't be surprised if you come up with several explanations (hypotheses)!

# 3. Draw up a plan

The time has now come to draw up a plan for your research. The purpose is to find out how correct your hypotheses are while you learn more about your subject. You might ask: Where can I get more information? How should I do my research? Who can I ask? You can take pictures, interview somebody who knows a lot about the subject, search the internet, go on a field trip or do your own experiments and observations (to observe means to watch something and pay attention to what you see).

## 4. Gathering information

You have to gather information that is related to your hypotheses. You'll need information that might support your hypotheses, and information that can prove them wrong! You should observe, count and measure, call, read, write,

ask and investigate. Maybe you even have some new ideas about how to get more information, or maybe your need to make new hypotheses. If so, you're working like a scientist!

## 5. What we found out

After doing your research, you have to summarise what you found out, and see if your hypotheses were correct. If you fail to get any further and all of your hypotheses seem wrong, go back to point 2. Try to come up with new hypotheses and conduct new experiments. Your results might lead to new questions that bring you closer to the answer you are looking for. Showing that one or more of your hypotheses are wrong, that is, disproving a hypothesis is just as important as confirming one. Research will always bring you further in one way or another!

# 6. Tell everyone else

Once you are done with your research, it is time to tell other people what you have found out and how you have worked. Write, draw or use other means to present your work. Your project can be presented by making a video or a poster, writing an article in a newspaper, or maybe making a proposal to your local authorities. Scientists have to present information that shows how they reached their conclusions, that is, they have to provide proof of their results.

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