Category 1: Research Investigation (K-2)

An investigation is an attempt to find, in a scientific way, the answer to an original question. In the early years of schooling students use observations to investigate the world around them. They learn that seeking answers to questions and making observations is a core part of science and use their senses to gather different types of information.

Note: In this section it is acceptable for the teacher to give students the question being researched, however, the teacher should select only the best investigations for submission for final judging.

A research investigation in this section involves:

- **asking questions about the topic.** *Why? What if...? How?*
- **posing a question to investigate.** *The question could be given to students or they could come up with their own question.*
- **predicting what they think will happen.**
- **conducting the investigation**. *This could be done individually, in groups or as a class.*
- **making and recording their observations**
- **analysing results to identify patterns and determine if their prediction was correct.**
- **communicating their results to others.**

A successful STS Research Investigation entry in this section will:

- follow the scientific method of investigation
- communicate ideas clearly
- have visual appeal

STS Rules

It is important that all entries comply with the STS Rules. Please read these rules carefully to ensure your entry is eligible for judging.

The judges will be looking for entries that clearly communicate science ideas, use appropriate inquiry skills and that the technical language is appropriate for the age level of the entrants. Refer to the Australian Curriculum for details of the Science Inquiry Skills expected by students in each age grouping. ***It is acceptable for a scribe to be used in K and PP.***

Entry guidelines

Tick the requirements below have been satisfied.

Content

The entry should include:

- ☐ entry label attached to the back on the poster
- ☐ Risk Assessment Form (stuck on the back of the poster) -it can be a photocopy of the class risk assessment.

*It is important that a risk assessment is completed before conducting the investigation. This can be done as a class. A **Risk Assessment Form** is required to be submitted with the entry.*

The poster must include the following parts.*

- ☐ **Title**
- ☐ **What I was trying to find out** (Question) - What was the research question?
- ☐ **What I thought would happen** (Prediction) - What was the student's prediction?
- ☐ **What I did** (Method) - A description, drawings or photographs to show what they did.
- ☐ **What I observed** (Observations) - Everything the student discovered (or found out).
- ☐ **What I have learnt** (Conclusion) - Discuss the results describing the patterns and trends. Was the prediction correct?

***** Students can use either the statements in **bold** or those in the brackets for their headings.

Presentation

Your poster should:

- ☐ be approximately A2 (42 cm x 59 cm – double A3) in size
- ☐ be done on flexible poster paper that can be easily rolled up
- ☐ not have any built-up or three dimensional sections.
- ☐ be laminated or covered in contact if diagrams or writing has been attached to the poster, so pieces don't fall off in transit.