

The CREST Bronze Award at home:

Parent guide

Introduction to the CREST Bronze Award

CREST Bronze Awards introduce children to the language and methods of project work. Young people are asked to come up with the question they want to answer, the method they want to use to find that answer, and then report back on their findings, using the scientific framework of investigation.

The main characteristics of a successful Bronze project are that they:

- Involve a minimum of 10 hours of work on one project area;
- Use scientific and/or technical knowledge appropriate to children aged 11 to 14;
- Allow children to share their project outcomes with their peers (e.g. display, assembly, poster);
- Can be supported by parents in several ways: allowing their children to make decisions for themselves, supporting them to plan and review their progress regularly and supporting them to maintain the pace of progress.



At the end of your child's project, you will assess it using the CREST assessment criteria – a simple grid that asks you to reflect on your child's use of the scientific method and how well they have communicated their work.

Look on the CREST Awards website for further information about project ideas, health and safety information, and how to support your child.

www.crestawards.org



How to run a Bronze project

CREST Bronze Awards are very flexible and can be delivered in a number of ways – including in the home. There are several ways your child can get involved in CREST:

- You or your child can come up with your own ideas for a project to investigate
- You could use our CREST home learning resources available on our website: <https://www.crestawards.org/resource-library>

Recording your child's project

Use the CREST Bronze workbook to record your child's work.

- The workbook is a structured way to record your child's project and serves as a guide through the project process. It includes the information asked for in your child's profile and relates directly to the CREST criteria. Using this, children should gather enough evidence of their project and thought processes to submit for a CREST Bronze Award.
- If there are multiple children working on a team project, they should each fill in a CREST Bronze Award workbook.





Guide for assessors

Usually, a teacher or technician in school/college or a home educator assesses the CREST Bronze Awards. However, you don't need to be an expert in science or in your child's project research to assess this work. Parents can easily assess their child's project. To complete the assessment, all you will need is:

- Any project work
- The CREST Bronze workbook
- The assessment criteria

The aim of assessment at Bronze level is:

- To confirm that your child completed at least 10 hours of work
- To confirm that the subject knowledge/skill level is appropriate for your child's age or ability
- To confirm that your child/ren did the work themselves
- To assess the project against the CREST criteria

How to assess

1. Start by reviewing the materials your child has produced. Assess your child's work against each criterion in the assessment grid. At all stages of assessment, take age and special circumstances into account.
2. Discuss the project with your child, focusing on areas where you would need more evidence for the CREST criteria. During the discussion, confirm the level and length of the work, and that the project was completed by your child.
3. The results of the assessment should then be added to the project on your CREST account.

Once you have assessed the project, take the appropriate action below. Possible actions are:

Achievement level	Action
11+ out of 15 criteria met	Award Bronze
5/6 weak areas	Request further information or work from your child
6+ weak areas	Consider not awarding
Many criteria met at an advanced level of scientific knowledge, and your child spent 30+ hours on the project	Consider submitting for Silver Award



To achieve a CREST Award, your child must meet a minimum of 11 out of the 15 criteria.

CREST Bronze Award checklist	Has this been demonstrated?
1 – Planning the project	
Your child set a clear aim for the project and broke it down into smaller objectives	
Your child explained a wider purpose for the project	
Your child identified a range of approaches to completing the project	
Your child described the plan for how to complete the project and why they chose that approach	
Your child planned and organised their time well	
2 – Throughout the project	
Your child made good use of the materials and people available	
Your child researched the background to the project and referenced their sources appropriately	
3 – Finalising the project	
Your child made logical conclusions and explained the implications for the wider world	
Your child explained how what they did affected the outcome of the project	
Your child explained what they have learned and reflected on what they could improve	
4 – Project-wide criteria	
Your child showed understanding of the science behind their project, appropriate to their level	
Your child made decisions to direct the project, taking account of ethical and safety issues	
Your child showed creative thinking in carrying out the project	
Your child identified and overcame problems successfully	
Your child explained the project clearly, in both writing and conversation	

After CREST Bronze Awards

After completing a CREST Bronze Award, your child can go on to work towards a [CREST Silver Award](#)