

You Can Be a Chemist

from **Celebrating Chemistry**



Chemistry is the science that helps us learn about the world around us. Everything is made of chemicals—our bodies, our pets, our houses, the toys we play with, the medicines we take, the food we eat, and the books we read. Chemicals are the ingredients that make up all living and non-living things.

Chemists are scientists. Many of them work in laboratories to solve problems and make new materials. Laboratory chemists are often inventors. They combine chemicals in ways that no one else has done before. Chemists have discovered the adhesive used on Post-it notes, artificial sweeteners, Teflon, Nylon, new medicines, and many different kinds of plastics. Some chemists are teachers. They help students learn about the world around them. Some chemists work for toy companies looking for more ways to keep children around the world entertained. Other chemists are lawyers or writers for newspapers and magazines. Because chemistry is part of everything, chemists work in many different fields and have a wide variety of jobs.

If you want to learn more about chemistry, watch your newspaper for notices about programs for K–12 students. Local colleges frequently sponsor programs for students with an interest in science. Your school guidance counselor or science teacher can also talk to you about these programs as well as some possible careers in chemistry.

The work of chemists will never be over. As long as we need new products, better ways to protect the environment, and more information about the world and the way it works, there will be a need for chemists. For articles and other information about chemistry, check out the website, chemistry.org/kids.



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Membership Division—Office of Community Activities
1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036
email kids@acs.org or call 800-227-5558, ext. 6097
chemistry.org/kids
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