

SCIENCE BUDDIES *in Action*



Student

Gabriel Akins
Livermore, California

Summary

Gabriel Akins and his family did their first-ever science fair project by following Science Buddies' step-by-step Project Guide.

Overview

First-grader Gabriel Akins is a man on the move. When he is not in school, he enjoys swimming, practicing jujitsu, exploring the outdoors, and boating. So when Gabriel decided to do a science fair project, he chose to build a lemon battery—not just any lemon battery, but one that was strong enough to power a small motor.

Gabriel's grandfather, John Akins, who is a researcher himself, wanted to find resources that would help his grandson understand the steps of the scientific method. After doing a Google search, Mr. Akins found the Science Buddies website and recognized that it outlined all the steps that Gabriel needed to do a successful science fair project.



"A lot of the resources out there are not very accurate or complete," said Mr. Akins. "But the Science Buddies website is accurate and complete." Mr. Akins and Gabriel especially appreciated the Project Guide, noting, "We couldn't have done the project without it."

One of the best features of the Project Guide is, in the Akins' opinion, the self-evaluation checklists provided at the end of each section, especially the "Your Question" section. Once Gabriel had formulated his question, having the self-evaluation checklist helped him and his family to refine it. "Science Buddies broke it down into steps that Gabriel could understand," shared Mr. Akins.

In a letter to Science Buddies, Mr. Akins wrote, "Without the process provided on your website, it would have been much more difficult for a first-timer to understand the steps in the scientific process and what needed to be done. The checklists were invaluable. I want to thank your team for the great website. It really helps first-time science fair participants and their parents through the process."

Trying new things, like science projects, comes naturally to Gabriel, who said "I like learning just about anything!" Using the Science Buddies Project Guide definitely increased the quality of the project that Gabriel did, as he declared, "We would not have known what to do without it." But more importantly, he had a fun time doing the project.