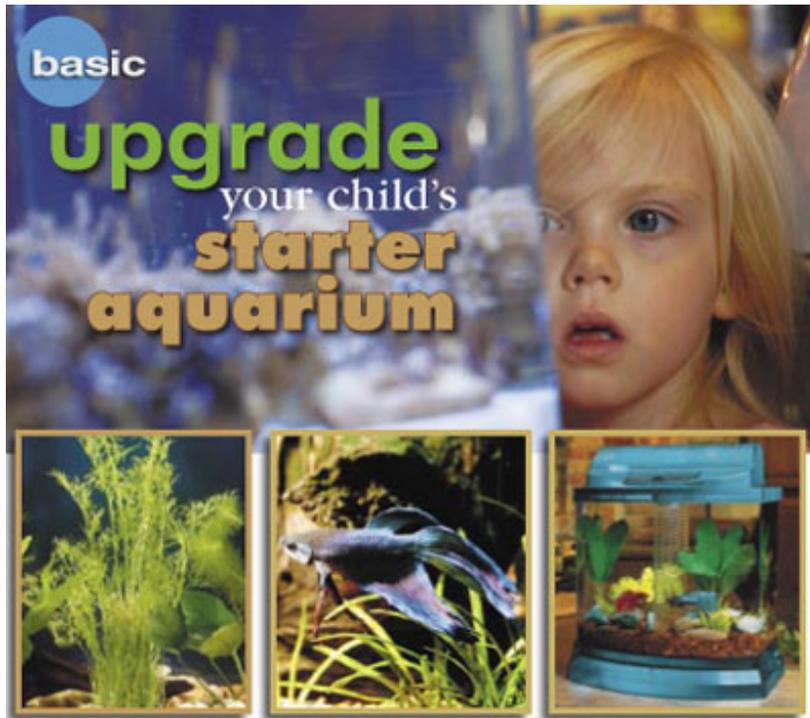


Upgrading Your Starter Aquarium

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



Aquarium keeping is a rewarding and popular hobby that's growing by leaps and bounds among many different age groups, particularly among younger children. If your child currently has just a basic desktop aquarium, it may be the perfect time to challenge and excite her by upgrading to a larger freshwater community aquarium. But before you start, consider the following to ensure an enjoyable and successful aquarium.

What types of fish are best for a beginning aquarist?

When selecting fish, remember to check compatibility and behavior since different species have different requirements. Mixing fish that require different water conditions can be stressful for you and your aquarium inhabitants. Select fish that share similar requirements to simplify care and ensure a successful and harmonious environment. Also, when stocking your new aquarium, think "groups" rather than individual fish. A community made up of compatible schools of hardy and colorful tropical fish is more interesting to look at than a hodge-podge of different fish.

What size aquarium is appropriate?

As you learn more about the fish you can house together you will need to make

ESSENTIALS: make it simple

Fan-Cooled Nano Cube

Aquarium ensures success as a starter kit, but also allows for upgrade options as your demands increase.

Tetra EasyStrips™ Aquarium

Test Strips provide accurate, easy-to-read water testing with the simple dip of a strip.

Coralife Digital Thermometer:

Economically priced and digitally accurate, this thermometer is completely transportable.

together, you will need to make certain aquarium decisions, such as size. Make sure the minimum aquarium size is larger than the minimum size requirement of the fish you intend to house. In general, the bigger the aquarium, the better it is for the fish. Water conditions in larger aquariums are more stable and the concentration of harmful chemicals are diluted. Larger aquariums are capable of safely housing a larger number of fish, and they allow ample room for growth.

RELATED INFORMATION

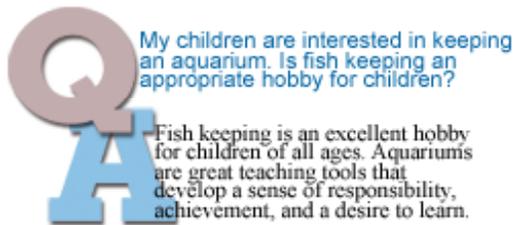
[Aquarium Basics](#)

[Freshwater Aquariums: Easy to Set Up, Very Easy to Maintain](#)

[12 Things to Consider Before You Buy Your Aquarium](#)

[Aquariums Nurture Children's Love of Learning](#)

[Essential Glossary for Beginning Aquarists](#)



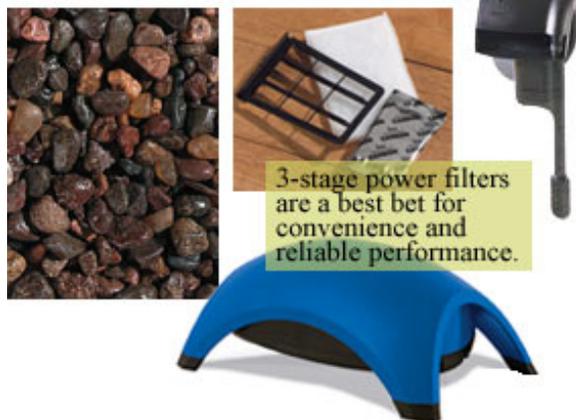
What equipment does my child need for an aquarium?

After your research on fish is complete and aquarium size is settled upon, make an equipment checklist. There is a wide variety of different aquarium equipment but selection is relatively straightforward. Aquarium equipment is rated for a particular aquarium size.



Consider the following list for basic aquarium necessities:

- [filter](#)
- [filter media](#)
- [siphon](#)
- [thermometer](#)
- [air pump](#)
- [substrate](#)
- [water conditioner](#)
- [heater](#)
- [scraper](#)
- [light fixture](#)
- [water test kit](#)
- [net](#)
- [fish food](#)
- [extra light bulb](#)
- [aquarium fish guide](#)
- [bucket for cleaning](#)
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Offer your children the opportunity to set up and maintain a home aquarium for an enjoyable and lasting hobby. However, the decision to set up an aquarium should not be done on a whim. Carefully evaluate the amount of time, effort, and finance you will be able to commit to the aquarium and its inhabitants, and have fun!