

Developing ideas through inquiry

The process of developing ideas in this way is described as one of inquiry – using scientific investigation and the capabilities used by scientists to develop understanding of the world around. What it involves in practice is represented in a simplified schematic model in Figure 2.

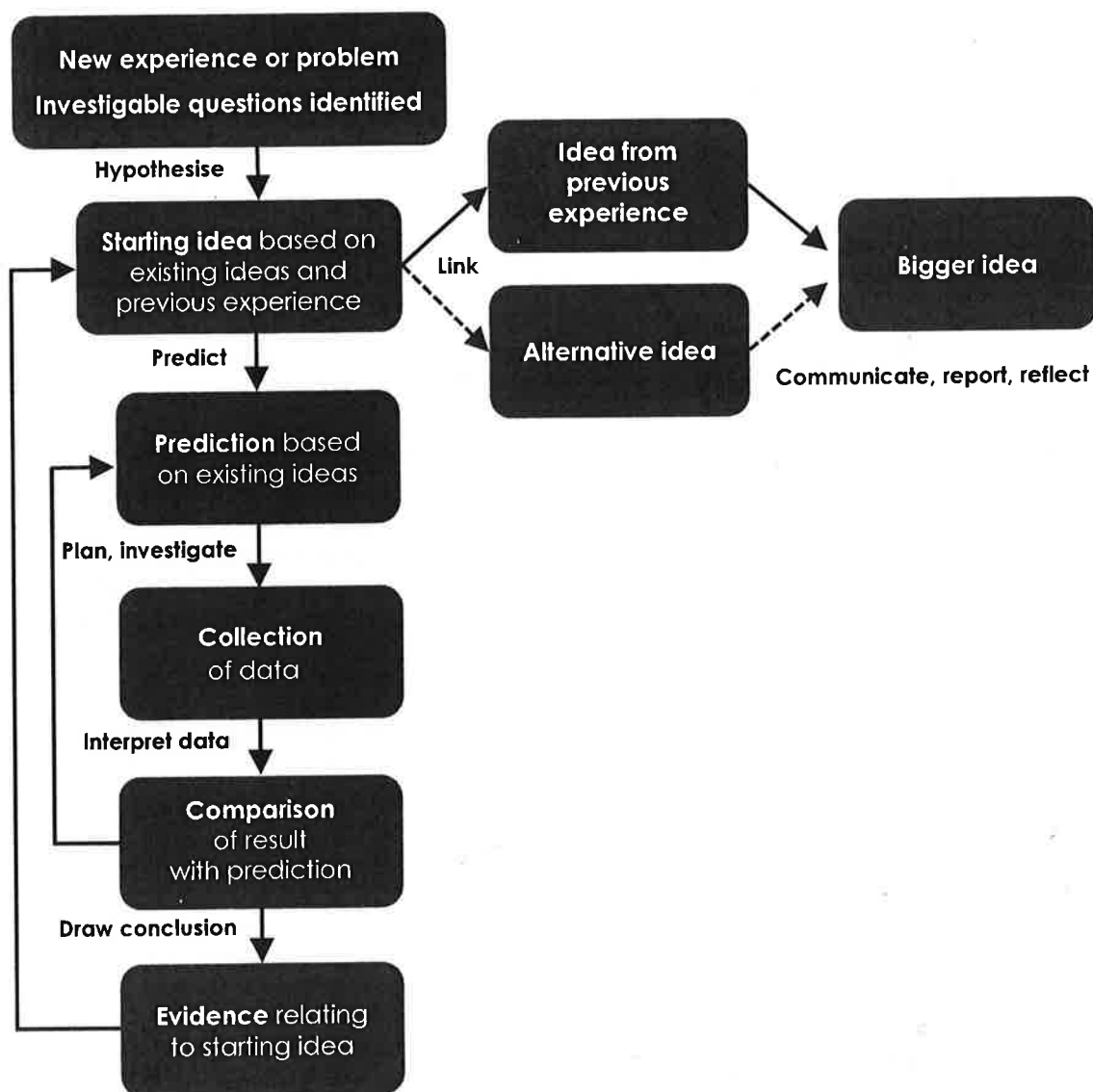


Figure 2:
A model of learning through inquiry

Inquiry begins with a new experience that raises a question about how it can be explained. Initial exploration of the new experience reveals features that relate to existing ideas that may lead to a possible explanation. There may be several relevant ideas providing possible explanations (or hypotheses) that need to be tested to find which, if any, provides an