

One Page Resource: Nature Exploration and Science in the Classroom

Adapted from *Marvelous Moving Things: Early Childhood Science in Motion* & *Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years*

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO INVESTIGATE USING THE PROJECT APPROACH

Discuss and role-model for children what scientists do

Support children's inquisitive nature by **explaining** and **modeling** the **scientific process** so that children can apply it to the many questions that motivate them to explore and learn. During circle time or a small group activity **explain to children what a scientist is and does** (EI 25.3, role plays).

1. A scientist is a person who **asks questions** and tries different ways to answer them. **Model "I wonder" and "what if" statements** (EI 14.3, makes predictions).

2. A scientist learns from his or her **senses** (EI 14.1, senses).

- Sight
- Hearing
- Touch
- Smell
- Taste

3. A scientist notices details and draws what he or she sees. **Model drawing an interesting object and labeling its parts** (EI 8.3, writing; EI 13.1, creativity).

4. Introduce children to the fact that scientists are always **looking for more to learn** (EI 23.2, explores new things). Have a large sheet of paper in the room to help children write down questions and topics that interest them and that you can investigate.

5. Point out that scientists investigate by:

- **Measuring** (EI 11.3, measurement)
- **Making comparisons** (EI 11.3, measurement)
- **Sorting** (EI 12.1, sorts)
- **Counting** (EI 9.2, counting)
- **Draw/write what they see** (EI 13.1, creativity; EI 8.3, writing; EI 27.1, focus)
- **Doing things over and over again** (EI 27.1, focus)

