

How does science nurture young children?

Children are natural investigators. They need opportunities to observe and predict, explore and discover, inquire and investigate.

Science helps to nurture children's ability to ask questions and seek answers, compare, and learn strategies to solve problems. Use children's natural curiosity as a springboard for curriculum.

Science is not an isolated subject for young children. We as early childhood teachers need to rethink our ideas about science. For young children science is all around. It involves learning about themselves, other living things, the weather, water and sand, mixing items, experiencing items changing, and so many more. Early childhood

teachers can help children link their everyday experiences to a basic understand of their physical environment. Children can begin to understand the concept of being alive and learn to value other living things.

Some small group ideas....

Make your own Stickers

What you will need:

4 Tbs. hot water

2 Tbs. flavored gelatin

Pour gelatin in a bowl with hot water, stir until blended. Brush mixtures on the back of a small picture, drawing, or magazine cut out. Allow to sit for 30-40 minutes. When you're ready to use your sticker just wet the back then stick it!!

~Blow bubbles. Are bubbles always round? Try making bubble prints.

~Fill a tub with water and provide the children with a variety of objects; some that will float and some that will sink. Ask the children to make predictions; help them write their predictions down, about what will happen.

~ Make a 'telephone' using empty cans. Explore the concepts of how it works.

~ Have the children play with silly putty. What are its properties? Try to pick up newspaper prints with the putty. What happens to the image when you pull the putty in different directions?

~ Fill an ice cube tray with water, add food coloring to the water. Freeze the tray. When frozen encourage the children to explore with the different colored cubes. What happens when you mix the colored water?

Always encourage **DOCUMENTATION** of children's ideas. "What do you think will happen when we....?" "Why do you think that happened....?" "What else could we try...?" "What's your guess?" "What do you notice about....?"

Additional Resources

Play, Projects, and Preschool Standards-Nurturing children's sense of wonder and joy in learning. By Gera Jacobs and Kathy Crowley

Published by Corwin Press-A SAGE Publications Company 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Science is Simple-Over 250 Activities for Preschool, by Peggy Ashbrook

Published by Gryphon House, INC. 10726 Tucker Street, Beltsville, MD 20705



If you want to do something good for a child, give him an environment where he can touch things as much as he wants.

~Buckminster Fuller