

Basic Foundations

Three to Five — Science

Learning science is something children do, not something that is done to them.
(National Research Council, 1996)

The Nature of Science



Young children are learning when they —



- * Interact with and explore a variety of objects, books and materials—experimenting can be done in many different ways.
- * Use the five senses to investigate the environment and to gather information—the best way to learn about everything is to touch, smell, see, hear and/or taste it, using all of the senses that are appropriate for that item.
- * Use age appropriate scientific equipment—looking at a bug through a magnifying glass is the best way to see everything.
- * Ask and answer questions about their world—we all continue to learn by asking questions, but have truly learned when we know the answers.

Adults are being supportive when they —

- * Offer the child a variety of materials/objects to touch, smell, hear, see and taste—always remembering the child’s developmental stage and providing them with safe objects.
- * Provide opportunities in and out of the home to explore—taking a walk through the neighborhood to see/smell different flowers.
- * Encourage the child to predictions—by asking questions before you complete a task, “What do you think will happen to the salt when it is poured into the water?” Then discuss what you see.
- * Encourage the child to document discoveries through a variety of ways—keep a journal of drawings, photos, and written stories about what you experience.

Websites for Fun and Ideas—

www.preschoolrainbow.org

kids.lovetoknow.com

preschoolrock.com

www.parents.scintro.com



Based on the
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