

Early Science

Science is a way to find out about the world through exploration. Scientists are careful observers. They engage in scientific investigation by forming a theory about something they want to know more about, collecting data about it, and evaluating the data critically. The belief that it is possible to understand things about the physical and natural world by active investigation is at the core of scientific thinking.

Young children are investigators by nature. You can encourage young children's natural curiosity and scientific thinking by:

- Posing "I wonder why...what... where?" questions and modelling your curiosity about the world. "I wonder where this ant is going. Let's follow him! Where do you think ants live?" Active investigation can be followed by reading science books or watching educational videos together.
- Posing open-ended questions and statements to help children observe and communicate their observations, compare and classify. "What does a bird's feather feel like?" "What do you notice about this rock?"
- Drawing children's attention to patterns and relationships in the environment. "Tell me how these trees are alike.", "Which rock is rougher?" "Why do you think the puddle got smaller after the rain stopped?"
- Helping your child make a hypothesis. "What do you think will happen?"
- Helping your child to evaluate his/her hypothesis based on evidence. "Let's see what happened. Why do you think this happened?"

We encourage you to accept children's emergent ideas and theories as they reason about natural phenomena and guide children toward further discovery that will help them evaluate their own theories. For example, your child might have observed that hamsters tear and chew paper towels (hamsters do it for nesting) and he/she thinks animals can eat paper towels. Now your child might think other animals eat paper towels too. You can use it to explore further what food animals eat.

We have prepared many fun science learning activities, experiments and resources to help extend your preschooler's scientific thinking and knowledge even further. Have fun learning science!