

Preschool Milestones Scientific Thinking

1. Inquiry

A. Asks questions and uses senses to observe and explore materials and natural phenomenon

1. Uses all 5 senses to observe and explore materials and natural events
2. Observes, explores and describes a variety of animals and plants
3. Identifies and describes the life cycles of living things
4. Identifies and describes the environments of living things
5. Observes, explores and describes a variety of non-living things
6. Identifies properties of rocks, soil, earth and air
7. Asks questions that can be answered through investigation
8. Observes and experiments to answer questions
9. Discusses findings based on observations and asks more questions
10. Describes simple seasonal changes
11. Describes simple weather changes

B. Uses simple tools and equipment for investigation

1. Uses magnifying glasses to explore objects
2. Uses binoculars to explore objects
3. Places objects on the balance scale to compare weight
4. Uses tools to conduct simple science experiments and discusses outcome

C. Makes comparisons among objects

1. Compares objects explored in science experiences, looking for likenesses and differences: heavy and light; hot and cold; rough and smooth; magnetic and non-magnetic; living and non-living; sink or float; plant or animal; fruit or vegetable; healthy or not healthy

2. Physical Science

A. Identifies, describes and compares properties of objects

3. Life Science

A. Identifies, describes and compares characteristics of living things

4. Earth Science

A. Explores and identifies properties of rocks, soil, water and air

B. Observes and describes simple seasonal and weather changes

1. Notices the weather and participates in charting daily weather
2. Describes seasonal changes
3. Matches seasonal objects to the appropriate season
4. Names the four seasons, realizing they form a repeating pattern