

STEM



Everywhere, All the Time



Young children are curious. They ask lots of questions so they can understand their world. They naturally ask the very same questions scientists ask: *How? When? Why? What will happen if...?*

Believe it or not, when your child helps you measure ingredients in the kitchen, when you make paper airplanes together, and when she watches an ant and then says, *Come quick and see what this ant is doing!* you are doing science. Young children investigate the world around them just like scientists do:

- They **observe** how things work, move and change.
- They **predict** based on evidence and observation—not on just a guess.
- They plan and engage in **simple investigations**.
- They **share and discuss** new ideas.
- They use **simple tools** (rulers, magnifiers, etc.).
- They look for **patterns and relationships**.
- They **describe, compare, and sort** objects by color, shape, size and weight.
- They **estimate**: height, weight, size, time and speed.
- They make **simple drawings** and talk about what happened.
- They **repeat investigations** over and over again.

Talking and Exploring Together



Take time to observe, wonder, read books, ask questions, talk about and explore the world with your child. You don't need all the answers!

Encourage your child to ask questions and together you can explore answers:

- Talk about the things you see in your world, such as the weather, plants, etc.
- Wonder aloud and ask questions relating to your activities.
- Encourage your child to predict what will happen next.
- Encourage your child to estimate height, weight, size, time and speed.
- Allow plenty of time to discuss the investigations you're doing.
- Look for patterns and sequences in everyday activities.
- Ask questions about different objects and experiences: *How is this one different? How is it the same?*



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