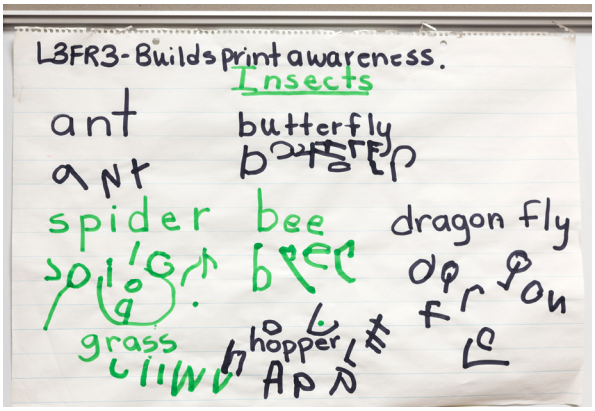
MATERIALS TO SUPPORT SCIENCE LEARNING

Here are some suggestions for science materials inside and outside of the classroom so that children can practice science skills and learn science concepts throughout the day. Choose materials that are open-ended and encourage children to explore and build. You can add materials that build on children's interests in addition to those that support planned science activities. Check your curriculum for more ideas. Remember to keep materials organized and accessible for you and children to use.

Literacy center: Fiction and informational books on science concepts, scientists, and science projects throughout the world; science journals to record observations and results; science vocabulary; posters with science concepts and questions



Dramatic play: Measuring tapes and rulers; magnifying glasses; archaeology dig materials; health care tools such as a stethoscope and a reflex hammer; a model teeth set with large toothbrush

Block area: Ramps and balls; different kinds of building materials; pictures of structures for building ideas; paper to draw building plans and buildings

Sensory table: Water, sand, or gak; measuring cups, funnels, plastic tubing, and pitchers; materials to compare by smell and feel; different-size containers to explore volume

Math center: Natural and other materials to sort, such as pinecones, leaves, plastic animals, and photographs; measuring tools such as rulers, tape measures, and stop watches

Science center: Poster of the steps of the scientific method; experiments

- *Tools*—balance scale with materials to weigh; microscope with items to examine; magnifying glasses; binoculars; a camera to document science activities; drawing materials to record observations and experiment results; clear boxes to collect natural specimens
- *Life science activities*—live animals like fish; interesting natural objects such as leaves and pinecones; a model skeleton; plants and watering cans
- *Physical science activities*—magnets; prisms; simple electrical circuits; paper airplane supplies and examples
- *Earth and space science activities*—Natural objects like rocks and minerals; clay to make landforms such as mountains and islands

Art center: Playdough and papier mâché to make models; photographs and drawings of natural things from all over the world; color-mixing materials; natural materials like leaves, pinecones, and sticks for printing, rubbing, mosaics, and weaving; large paper for murals

Music and movement: Instruments such as rhythm sticks and drums; tin-can telephone; sound shakers to match or sort; low balance beam or line on the floor to walk on; tape or CD player with science-themed songs; different-size tuning forks

Circle area: Science words and questions

Outside: Natural spaces with sand, water, rocks, plants, and trees; bubbles; vegetable and flower gardens; balls and pumps; stomp rockets; baking-soda-and-vinegar-fueled rockets and cars; hammer, nails, and a tree round; a pendulum; a parachute; clear containers to collect bugs

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