The scientific method is a series of steps that help children understand their world. Below is a guide to help teachers encourage children to use this process in the classroom. Please note these steps may not always occur in this order (e.g., a teacher might ask students to make predictions prior to observing). It is important for teachers to be intentional and incorporate the steps of the scientific method across various activities. Strategies used in the scientific method (e.g., questioning, experimenting, etc.) can be used to support children’s learning across several other domains of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework (see other supporting documents from the scientific method in-service suite for examples).

**Steps of the scientific method:**

**QUESTION**
Help children form their own questions related to their world.

**OBSERVE**
Ask children to use their senses and closely observe the world around them.

**PREDICT**
Encourage children to predict, or make a guess, about the answer to their question.

**EXPERIMENT**
Provide opportunities for children to experiment and test their predictions.

**DISCUSS**
Allow children to discuss the results of their experiment.

**Some possible suggestions:**

Prompt children to create questions regarding the topic at hand.

Encourage children to see, hear, smell, taste, and touch materials when appropriate.

Ask children to share, based on their observations, what they think the answer to their question might be.

Incorporate hands-on activities for children that allow them to test their predictions.

Talk about the results of the experiment and review key points learned.