

## NURSERY SCIENCE

Science is the study of nature and behaviour of things in the world around us. We learn about subjects by observing, guessing, describing and experimenting. It is a way to better understand how and why things happen. We use our senses to explore what happens in the world and to discover how things work.

The Preschool Developmental Guide List labels the science category as **Curiosity and Approaches to Learning**. It breaks down science into two sections: Curiosity and Scientific Inquiry.

### What is Curiosity?

Curiosity is when we have a desire to learn or know something. This is where children start to ask questions and wonder about what is happening in the world around them, trying to make connections.

### What is Scientific Inquiry?

Scientific inquiry is the beginning step to learning science skills. These are skills that children will develop throughout their entire lives. In Nursery, children are introduced to scientific skills and will practice them within all their learning experiences.

### Chart for Curiosity

Concept	Description	Examples
Asks questions	Is able to ask questions when trying to understand something.	Listen for and welcome children's questions.
Intrigued by new concepts/objects/activities	Interested to try or explore new things.	Tube Slide - Tape a couple paper towel rolls to the wall (can be connected or separate). Have a bowl of small objects that can fit in the tube (mini marshmallows, beads, bouncy balls etc.) <a href="https://healthymamainfo.com/2012/08/paper-towel-roll-tunnel/">https://healthymamainfo.com/2012/08/paper-towel-roll-tunnel/</a>
Shares new facts with excitement	Is able to tell new things they learn with emotion.	Each day find a new fact and explore it with your child. <a href="https://kids.niehs.nih.gov/games/riddles/jokes/fun-facts-and-trivia/index.htm">https://kids.niehs.nih.gov/games/riddles/jokes/fun-facts-and-trivia/index.htm</a>
Performs simple investigations to answer own questions	Tries to figure out new things by trial and error ("What would happen if...").	Sink or Float - have a container of water and a random assortment of objects. Take each object and put it in the water to see what will happen. <a href="https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/sink-or-float.html">https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/sink-or-float.html</a>

## Chart for Scientific Inquiry

Concept	Description	Examples
Uses senses to gather information	Explores using their 5 senses (feels, looks, smells, listens, tastes).	Taste test - try a new food. Look at it, smell it, touch it, taste it.
Makes predictions	Guesses what is going to happen ("If this, then that...").	What's going to happen? - Read a story to children and before turning the page ask them to guess what will happen next.
Tests ideas	Uses cause and effect to try something and see what will happen.	Floating Boat - make a boat out of paper or aluminum foil. Fill a bowl with water and place the boat inside. Put objects inside the boat to see how long it will float
Gathers data	When experimenting, takes in what happens (Observes, may draw pictures, collects items, etc.).	What will roll? - Take a ramp and some random objects. Set it up for children to test their ideas of which will roll down the ramp. <a href="https://www.prekinders.com/ramps-in-the-science-center/">https://www.prekinders.com/ramps-in-the-science-center/</a>
Explains observations	Can describe what happened when testing ideas (Tells others).	Keep up the balloon - Blow up 2-3 balloons. Tell the children to keep them in the air. After, talk about all the ways they kept them up.
Implements problem solving strategies	If something does not work, comes up with another way ("What if we try...").	Build a fort - Encourage children to try to build a fort. Have them make a plan and decide where to put blocks, containers and which furniture to use.

