



*Your Library partners with families to prepare children for kindergarten*

### This week's theme is Science

**Early Learning Standard 4.15: As children seek to understand their environment and test new knowledge, they engage in scientific investigations using their senses to observe, manipulate objects, ask questions, make predictions, and develop conclusions and generalizations.**

1. Child collects, describes, and records information through a variety of means, such as pictures or graphs.

**Parents can:** Encourage child to make observations and record them. Share nonfiction and fiction books with a science theme; expand your child's interests with books about how the world works.

2. Develop procedures and thinking skills for investigating the world, solving problems, and making decisions.

**Parents can:** Try some simple science experiments in which child uses the scientific method: ask a question, make predictions, conduct experiment, observe and record findings, form conclusions, and tell others about results.



**Early Learning Standard 4.16: Children develop understanding of and compassion for living things.**

3. Child can describe the relationship between living things and their habitat.

**Parents can:** Provide opportunities for child to create a simple habitat for a living thing and learn to care for it, or observe and read about living things and how their habitat supports life.

4. Child observes and describes the life cycle of plants, insects, and animals.

**Parents can:** Watch or read with child about various life cycles, such as a tadpole turning into a frog or a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis.

5. Child investigates, describes, and compares characteristics that differentiate living from non-living things.

**Parents can:** Find opportunities to discuss whether something is living or non-living, while being sensitive to cultural beliefs.

**Early Learning Standard 4.17: Children develop an understanding of the physical world.**

6. Child can notice and describe qualities of sound and light.

**Parents can:** Provide opportunities to explore light and sound, such as flashlights, shadows, making sounds with various objects. Talk about pitch and volume and point out differences in sounds.

7. Child explores and describes how properties of objects and materials can be changed.

**Parents can:** Provide opportunities for child to play with materials, such as adding water to cornstarch, mixing paint, or filling a balloon with air. Explore making different sounds and observing the changes.



8. Child plans and investigates the behavior of moving things.

**Parents can:** Provide materials such as cars and ramps as child explores properties of motion. Help guide discovery with open-ended questions, such as “Why did the car go farther this time?”

9. Child uses vocabulary that demonstrates basic understanding of scientific principles.

**Parents can:** Provide opportunities for child to investigate the physical world using a rich vocabulary and accurate terminology. Library books can help!

**Standard 4.19: Children develop an understanding of the processes that assist people in designing and building.**

10. Child can use simple machines and materials during play.



**Parents can:** Label and demonstrate the use of simple machines such as ramps, gears, wheels, pulleys, and levers, and give child many opportunities to use them.

11. Child can design, build, and test solutions during play.

**Parents can:** Provide time for child to play deeply where they can experiment with testing solutions, such as building a large structure from blocks or making a musical instrument.

For more tips, send “SIGNUP” to 406-204-3583 or ask a children’s librarian.