

# Exploring Science

[fyi.uwex.edu/parentingthepreschooler/](http://fyi.uwex.edu/parentingthepreschooler/)

## Tips to Discover Science

- ◆ Give children chances to try out ideas, build things, and collect items.
- ◆ Look at the weather and ask children to guess what is or will be happening.
- ◆ Ask questions, such as “what is the difference is between night and day?”
- ◆ Read and talk about books like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.
- ◆ Encourage children to smell, touch, look, listen, and ask questions.
- ◆ Look at and talk about animals, nature, plants, or people.
- ◆ Take a free trip to the park, community garden, or school science fair.
- ◆ Dig for answers... encourage children to explore what is in beach sand or dirt.



Photograph by Lisa Woelbing



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## Build Science Literacy

Children are natural scientists; they are born wanting to learn how the world works. Children learn as they explore, observe, build, test ideas, make mistakes, try again, and ask LOTS of questions. They are building science, math, and literacy skills.

## Encourage a Love for Science

Don't be intimidated! Even if science wasn't your favorite subject, you can use your child's natural curiosity and interests to grow a passion for science. Science is all around us – in our food, play, transportation, the weather, and much more.



Photograph by Lisa Woelbing

## Why is Science Important?

- Almost all young children “do science” most of the time. For example, playing catch teaches about physics (gravity and force), cause, and effect.
- The scientific skill of gathering and evaluating information helps children learn how to form their own opinions. This can protect against peer pressure.
- Through trial and error, children's patience and determination grow, which teaches them to keep trying.
- Children form language and literacy skills by talking and listening to others.
- Social skills grow by working together and talking about what is happening.
- Science helps children to think critically, which helps children be successful at home and school.

### UW-Extension Family Living Programs

"Raising Kids, Eating Right, Spending Smart, Living Well"



For more information, please contact your county UW-Extension office:

<http://counties.uwex.edu/>

[Link To References](#)

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