



# Infant and Toddler Newsletter

## Science for Little Ones

Infants and toddlers are natural scientists. They are curious and they love to explore and learn. Adults can help infants and toddlers find answers to their questions and discover new things that interest them.

You don't have to have a background in science to support children's ability to think deeply about problems, develop and test hypotheses, and share their discoveries. The best thing you can do is observe the kinds of problems infants and toddlers create for themselves, and then let those problems unfold. Of course, be ready to step in whenever something looks unsafe or children become very frustrated.

Children come to you with a passion and natural curiosity to explore, ask questions,

wonder, and experiment. As you plan new science experiences for children in early childhood education settings, begin by building on children's interests. From there, add a healthy dose of joy and creativity and a sense of fun. Science learning provides a broad and flexible structure within which you can ignite children's innate wonder in the world around them—and perhaps re-ignite your own.

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2016/rocking-rolling>



Lower Shore Child  
Care Resource  
Center

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## Science in all the Domains of Development

Science inquiry allows children to develop a range of skills across all domains of development. A few examples are:

- Comparing shape or size, and practicing skills like matching and sorting.
- Using a variety of sim-

ple tools to extend observations, such as ramps to experiment with movement and speed.

- Engaging in simple investigations, like dropping various objects into water to see which float and which sink.

- Develop vocabulary to describe what they are seeing and doing.
- Exploring objects, materials, and events.
- Asking questions. Making careful observations.

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### Specialized Training and Events for Infants and Toddlers

April 10th—Infant and Toddler Resource Fair @ Centre at Salisbury from 10 to 2pm.

April 22nd—Hands on Art for Twos, 6pm—9pm 3hrs in Curriculum.

May 11th—Spring into Ooey, Goopy Sensory, Infant & Toddler Advisory Board Event, 6:30—8:30pm, 1 PAU earned.

May 25th—More than Twinkle Twinkle: Using Music with Infants and Toddlers, 6pm -9pm 3hrs in Curriculum.

June 26th—R.E.S.P.E.C.T.—What Infants and Toddlers Want, 10—12pm 2hrs in Child Development

## How You Can Support Science Learning!

Babies are natural explorers. They are curious about everything and are constantly watching to see how things work or what's going to happen next. Use these guidelines to build a culture of science and exploration in your environment.

- 1) Create an "environment of yes". This environment provides opportunities for safe exploration and reduces the amount of time you spend keeping children safe or saying no.
- 2) Trust the child. Infants and toddlers often create their own problems to solve. Try not to solve the problem for them, a little frustration can lead to learning.
- 3) Use language. When you de-

scribe what children are doing and the results of their actions, you help them make sense of their experiences.

- 4) Ask questions. For toddlers questions can encourage children to think about other ways to approach a problem.
- 5) Follow children's lead. Watch and listen to see what engages children's interests. Give them the time and space to explore the problems.
- 6) Offer interesting objects to "provoke" children's interest. They are invited to discover what makes these objects the same and different and explore shape, size, and texture.

- 7) Document discoveries. Snap photos, write down children's dictations, take video, create a museum, or develop other exciting ways to capture children's learning. Post and display these discoveries at their eye level.
- 8) Be a wonder-er. Show babies that you value curiosity and exploration by modeling these behaviors yourself.

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