

*Children are curious about the world around them. In the Science Area/Center young children question, become scientists, and explore and learn about new materials. The Science Area allows children to examine things closely, compare and contrast, and draw conclusions about observations. A well-equipped Science Center allows children to explore living and non-living things, but most importantly encourages them to learn about the biological and physical world. The IQ Guide for the Learning Environment specifies the following expectations for the science center.*

### **Furnishing**

- ⇒ **A sensory table with ample sensory material and tools to dig, scoop, pour and measure is open and accessible daily.** While it may be appropriate to have the sensory table closed when it is not center time, materials should never be stored on top of the sensory table. The table should be open at the beginning of center time, rather than waiting to see if children ask to use it. Please see **Sensory Table Ideas** for ideas of items to include in the sensory table.
- ⇒ **Basic shelving to house science materials:** Furniture and shelving help ensure the science center is clearly defined separately from other learning areas.

**Ensure the following materials are accessible, labeled, and organized:**

- ◆ **Basic materials (3 different materials from this list):**

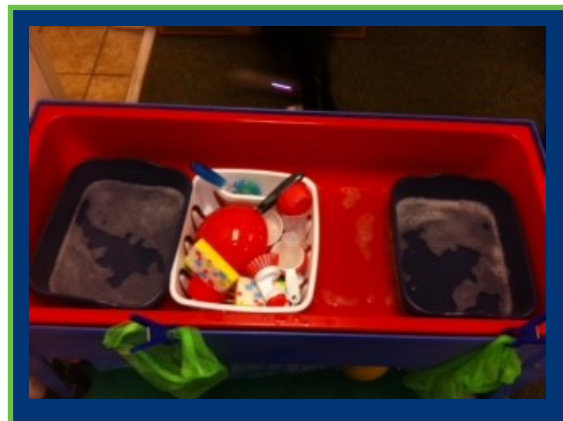
Magnets and Items to Attract and Repel	Binoculars	Magnifying Glasses	Prisms	Color Paddles
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- ◆ **Discovery experience materials (3 types):**

Matching Sounds	Identifying Scents	Feely Bags	Sequencing Cards	Gears
Discovery Tubes	Sensory Bottles	Simple Science Experiments	Health and Nutrition Games	Animal Bingo

- ◆ **Pictures and collections related to science/nature are displayed in the area (2 sets/collections):**

Seashells	Rocks	Feathers	Tree Bark	Variety of Leaves	Acorns
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- ◆ **Something living for children to care for:** Whether a plant or a pet, make sure there are opportunities for children to care for the living thing by feeding or watering it. Anything living, from simple sprouting grass seeds to an extensive guinea pig cage with multiple guinea pigs is appropriate. Check with your director to see if the program has any additional guidance for class pets/plants.

- ◆ **Materials to promote literacy development:**

Walkie-talkies      Science Word Cards      Writing materials      Age-appropriate

- ◆ **Texture/sensory table materials are varied and changed monthly.**

Sand      Water      Dirt      Pea Gravel      Confetti

Please see **Sensory Table Ideas** for additional ideas of items to include in the sensory table.

