CULTIVATING CURiosity
Creating Fun and Fascinating Preschool Science Programs
Stephanie Smallwood – Early Literacy Specialist
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• Provides experiences that build important skills.
Children are fascinated with how the world works.
SCIENCE IN THE LIBRARY

- Storytime
- Special Programs
- Passive Programs
SCIENCE FOR PRESCHOOLERS

- Not magic.

- Questioning, exploration, hypothesizing, experimentation and discovery.

- Opportunity to build background knowledge and vocabulary.
SETTING GOALS

- Cultivate an interest in science.
- Build background knowledge.
- Learn about the scientific process.
- Learn to ask questions and find the answer.
- Other goals?
What do we use?

- Books
- Questions and Language
- Exploration
- Experimentation
Planning a science experience with plants and magnifying glasses.

MO Early Learning Standard II-b: Collects information to learn about living things.

Connects program to developmental needs, provides clear value.
- Informational Books
- Prediction
- Simple Science

Science Discussion

Science Station Activities
Concept introduction.

Share a book.

Focus on important words.

Exploratory stations.

Question Center.

Take-Home activity.
• Long-term observations.

• Bridge between simple activities and bigger programs.

• Can provide more opportunities for interaction.

• Include a book display.

• [http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2012/12/steal-this-idea-taking-stem-literally/](http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2012/12/steal-this-idea-taking-stem-literally/)
Jump in, science is fun!

- Know why.
- Set a goal.
- Choose a program.
- Choose materials.
- Connect the dots.
- Have fun!
CONTACT ME WITH QUESTIONS!

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