

PLAY TIME

REAP
WAI RARAPA

a REAP Wairarapa eResource

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SCIENCE

Science is about making sense of the world. It is curiosity, the drive to make sense of something in our surroundings. Children are natural scientists. Babies put objects into their mouths to find out about taste and feel. Toddlers poke, prod and explore. Older children want to know what and why.

How can adults help?

- Provide new experiences
- Give children time to explore, experiment, predict and observe
- Encourage language which helps children to build science concepts
- Help children use all their senses "What does it smell like? What can you hear? Have you tasted this before? What does it feel like? What can you see happening?"
- Answer questions honestly and if you don't know the answer investigate together
- Develop children's ability to solve their own problems "I wonder why", "What if you" "Do you remember what happened when"
- Restrain your eagerness to tell them why, let them come up with their own conclusions.



- Go for a walk and take time to look, listen, hear, taste and feel, it's through curiosity that children learn about the world.
- Use natural resources for collage and treasure baskets.
- Freeze water in different shaped containers, add food colouring to some and see what happens when the ice melts. Try putting other substances onto the ice to see the reaction e.g. salt and sand.
- Mix paint colours together.



- Baking, what reactions do different ingredients make.
- Make volcanoes, mix ¼ cup dish wash liquid, ½ cup vinegar and some food colouring. Add 1 teaspoon baking soda and watch!
- Use magnets to see what they attract
- Grow plants
- Blow bubbles
- Study insects (carefully)
- Make wind chimes

Be aware of using rich language involving science concepts during ALL experiences.

Enjoy your discoveries together.

eResource provided by Jude Mitchell - Early Childhood Team Leader

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