



Get Ready to Teach Science!



Science in the Preschool Day

Each Early Science with *Nico & Nor*[™] curriculum supplement is designed to take place over 3 weeks, with activities being done several days a week. However, the activities in each lesson can be completed in a time frame that works best for your classroom and schedule, whether all in one day or spread over several days. Each lesson organizes the activities by different times in the daily schedule.

Circle Time: Introduction

Circle Time (approximately 15 minutes) prepares and motivates children for upcoming activities. Circle Time activities include: whole group hands-on explorations and discussions, Shared Play with the digital game, read-aloud stories and related songs, and short video clips of other children doing related activities and sharing observations. The videos serve as springboards for your class to explore similar activities in the classroom and outdoors. Circle Time: Introduction is also a good time to introduce Learning Center materials.

Guided Small Group

We suggest that you organize your class into 4 groups for Guided Small Group work. During every lesson, you will meet with each group for about 15 minutes while the rest of the class engages with Learning Center activities. Each group will work together for the duration of each unit and document their explorations with the digital journal apps.



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Learning Centers

Learning Centers (15 minutes each) are designed to encourage children to explore materials independently (or with light guidance) and in an open-ended way. Introduce each center by discussing or demonstrating ways that children can use the materials. Then, allow children to explore at their own pace and in their own way. Take the opportunity (along with other educators or adults in the classroom) to circulate among the centers and engage children in conversation about what they are doing and what they notice. During these activities, children may explore how materials can be used in multiple ways. Follow children's interests as you encourage them to describe, compare, predict, and explain. Use Science Talk strategies to enrich and deepen children's hands-on learning experiences. These conversations also give you valuable information about the level of children's understanding and the specific things that capture their interest. More information and examples of Science Talk strategies can be found in the "Get Ready to Teach Science" section of the Teachers Guide as well as in each activity's directions.

Outdoors

Each curriculum includes several 15-20 minute activities to do outdoors. You will need to find a safe and convenient area for your children to explore, one without traffic, glass and litter, thorny plants, poison ivy and other plants that can cause rashes. Also consider what the weather might be like during the weeks you plan to implement these lessons. Going outdoors offers great opportunities to help children expand their awareness and understanding of the natural world around them. We encourage you to include these outdoor learning activities in your curriculum, modifying the activities as needed to fit your particular setting.

The world outside is filled with plants, large and small—even in small, paved areas you can find plants poking through cracks. In the Plants unit, lessons 4-6 include outdoor plant explorations.

In the Ramps unit, lessons 1, 3, and 8 include outdoor explorations of force, movement, and how different surfaces affect how far and how fast a rolling object travels.

The outdoors is a wonderful natural laboratory for exploring light and shadows with children. In the Shadows unit outdoor activities, children are often invited to document their observations and discoveries on the iPad in their digital *Shadows Journal*.

Snacks

Plants feed us! Each week (during the Plants unit only), Snacks with Seeds activities (5-10 minutes) encourage children to taste and examine various fruits and vegetables. Snack activities can be scheduled into any day that works for your schedule and classroom. You will want to check with parents and guardians in advance about children's food allergies and sensitivities.

Circle Time: Wrap-Up

In a closing Circle Time (approximately 15 minutes), the class reflects on questions and discoveries from the day. Photos and videos taken by children during the Guided Small Group and Outdoor activities can be projected or shared on an iPad to prompt discussion. The sessions also include read-aloud books, action songs, video viewing, and/or shared exploration of the digital games.