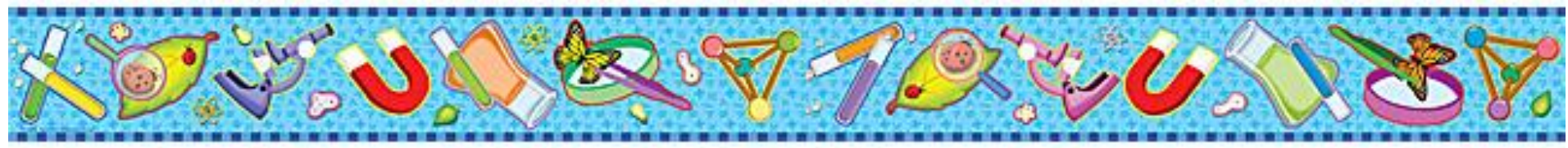


The Scientific Method

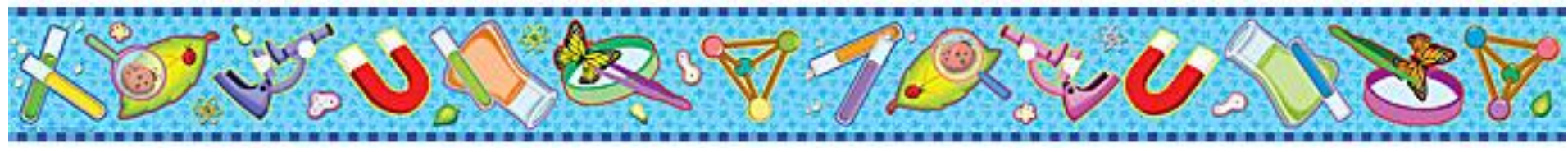


STEP 1: MAKE OBSERVATIONS

The first step of the scientific process involves making observations. Here are some open-ended questions that you can ask to encourage kids to make observations:

- What do you see, hear, taste, smell, feel?
- What did you notice about the rocks?
- Can you tell me about the block tower that you made?
- What do you notice about the plants?



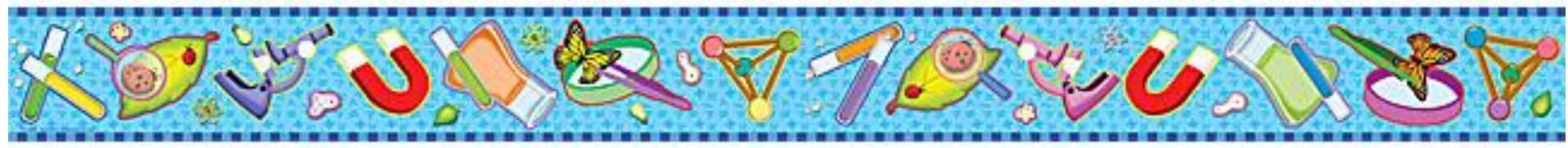


STEP 2: FORM QUESTIONS

Step #2 is the step of wonder. Encourage kids to form questions about their observations.

- I wonder what will happen if the rocks get wet?
- I wonder why the block tower collapsed?
- I wonder why that plant is droopy?

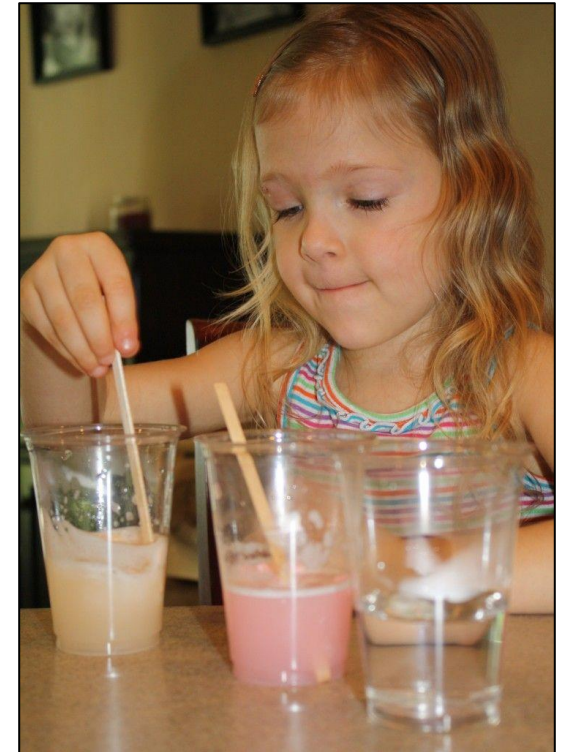


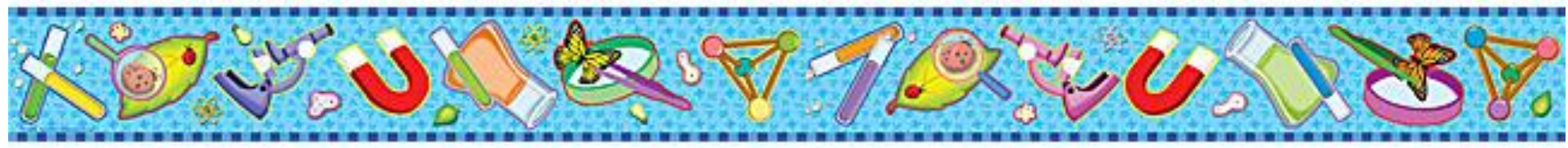


STEP 3: DEVELOP A HYPOTHESIS

Step 3 of the scientific process involves developing a hypothesis or making a prediction to answer the question. This is the step of think....."I think".

- I think that the rocks will be slippery when they are wet.
- I think that the block tower fell over because the base was too small.
- I think that the plant is droopy because it is sad.





STEP 4: TEST THE HYPOTHESIS

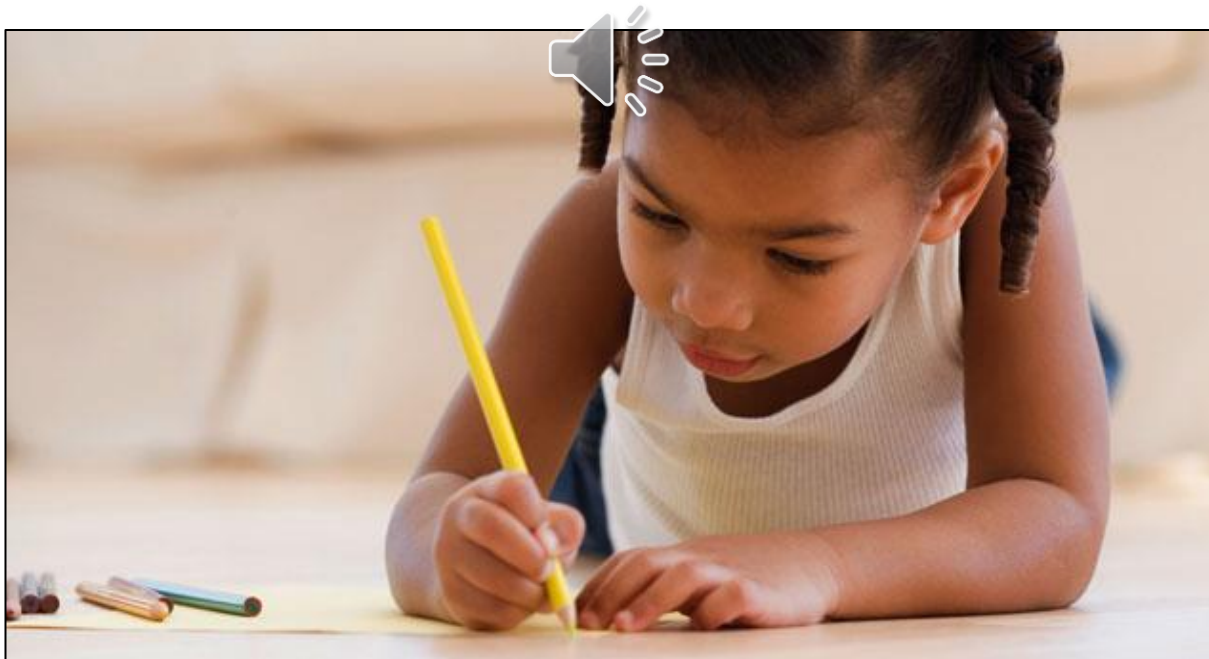
The fun part is testing the hypothesis. Kids can use a spray bottle to get rocks wet, they can try another method to build their block tower, or they can sing songs to the droopy plant.

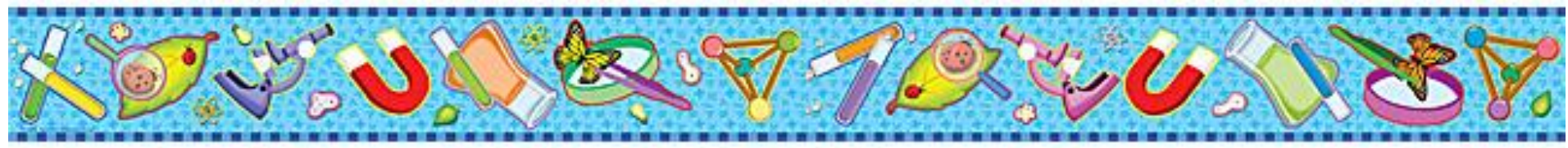




STEP 5: RECORD THE RESULTS

Scientists always record the results of their experiments. Kids can also record results in their own way. They can talk about the results, but you can also use this as an opportunity to encourage literacy. If you provide paper or even a flip chart, this will encourage kids to draw pictures or “write” about their scientific discoveries.





STEP 6: SHARE THE RESULTS

The final step in the scientific method is sharing the results. Here are some ways that young scientists can share results.

- You can have a simple conversation with kids about what happened.
- Kids can invite others to re-test and see the results of their experimentation.
- Children can share the results with parents at pick-up or with other kids at circle time
- Little scientists can share the notes, photos, drawings to someone.
- You can hang photos of their experimentation or their drawings/writing in the room or on a bulletin board.

