

SCIENCE TIME WITH BOOKS

What is the scientific method?

The scientific method is a way of:

- Figuring out what questions to ask
- Taking steps to take to answer that question
- Making sure that the information gathered is not biased

The scientific method can become a habit at an early age by expecting children to come up with questions and then to find answers to those questions.

Following the **scientific method** means that you explore a situation and focus on what you think might happen. This is called making a:

- **hypothesis** or a
- **prediction** or a
- **guess** about what might happen.

Demonstrate the scientific method with a book:

One way to help young children develop the skill of predicting is to ask them to guess what will happen next when you read them a book. Then follow up by asking them if things turned out the way they thought it would. Make it clear that you will respect and accept all answers.

- **Select a book** that is well suited to getting children started thinking about what happens next in a book, noticing patterns, and asking questions. Two good examples are:

Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino

There's a Nightmare in My Closet by Mercer Mayer

- **Ask the children:**
 - *What do you think this story will be about?*
 - *What do you think will happen next?*
 - *Is this what you thought would happen?*

Build on the above skills during science experiences:

- Ask questions to help children make predictions and hypotheses.
- Give children a chance to say what they think will happen before an activity begins and before adult opinions are voiced.
- Give them opportunities to describe what they saw, and why they think it happened that way.

Example: If a child finds a bug on the playground, ask:

- *What do you think it is?*
- *What is it doing?*
- *Where did you find it?*



Encourage them to share what they know about the bug. If they show interest in getting more information, help them research it by using a book.