



**Early  
Childhood  
SCIENCE  
Education**

ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE CAPACITY & PROPENSITY TO



observe

explore



& discover

their world







**NSTA supports  
the learning of science  
among young children  
that will create  
a seamless transition  
for learning  
in elementary school.**

Children have the capacity to engage in scientific practices and develop understanding at a conceptual level.

Adults play a central and important role in helping young children learn science.

Young children need multiple and varied opportunities to engage in science exploration and discovery.

Young children develop science skills and knowledge in both formal & informal settings.

Young children develop science skills and knowledge over time.

Young children develop science skills and learning by engaging in experiential learning.

# KEY PRINCIPLES



# How does SCIENCE look in early childhood?

(INFORMAL) Home, Daycare or PreK School (FORMAL)

BIRTH

5 Years Old

**ENVIRONMENT**

Safe  
Accessible  
Indoors & outdoors  
Variety of challenges  
Appropriately scaled



SUPPORTS  
open-ended inquiry-based  
EXPLORATIONS

**ACTIVITIES**

exploratory  
play



core  
science-  
focused  
experiences

active  
engagement



define problems

active  
engagement



use math &  
computational  
skills

active  
engagement



record &  
discuss findings