

Young children naturally build knowledge by being curious about the world around them.

When you do science with your children, you can share their sense of wonder about the natural world. They'll develop self confidence when they ask and answer their own questions.

How to get the most out of your explorations:

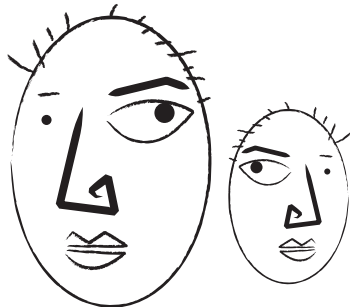
- **Dress for the mess**
Science explorations can be messy.
- **Take your time**
Play for as long as the activity holds your child's interest. Don't rush towards the 'right' answer.
- **Be curious**
Ask "What would happen if..." and then find out. Let your child's questions guide you.

Face Collage

We all have eyes, a nose and a mouth, but everyone has slightly different facial features that make them unique!

What You Need

- Images of eyes, noses, mouths from magazines or photographs
- Paper
- Glue
- Mirror (optional)
- Crayons or felt markers
- Yarn (optional)



Questions to Ask

Can you tell me the names of some of the features we find on our face?

What colour are my eyes? What colour are yours?

What makes your face different from him/her? What things are the same about your faces?

Who will you make a picture of? What colour eyes does he/she have?

Can you find a nose that looks like theirs?

Can you add on any other features that are missing with the crayons?

Hands-on

1. Have the children name the various parts of our faces (eyes, nose, mouth, etc).
2. Observe friends around you to notice similarities and differences.
3. Choose someone to make a picture of (self, friend or family member)
4. Select eyes, nose and mouth and glue to paper to make the face of the person selected.
5. Draw on hair with a crayon, or glue on hair made from yarn.

What Next?

- Explore facial expressions. Can you tell what someone is feeling from the way they look? How can you tell?
- Make a pedigree (a special kind of family tree that shows eye colour in your family.) What colour are your mother's eyes, your father's eyes and your sibling's eyes?
- Make a chart showing who has blue, brown, green or hazel eyes in your family or group of friends. Which colour is the most common?

Terrific Toes

Many animals use their toes and feet like fingers and hands. Test the ability of your “monkey toes”.

People and animals have different shaped feet. You might notice human footprints and animal tracks when you are out for a walk.

What You Need

- A variety of small objects (e.g. fabric scraps, sponge, pencil, toys, large nuts/bolts, pompoms, sock, etc.)
- Stopwatch (optional)

Hands-on

1. Spread out the objects on the floor.
2. With bare feet, try to pick up as many of the objects as possible with your toes.

What Next?

- Time yourself using the stopwatch. How long does it take you to pick up all the objects?
- Pick up an item with your toes and see how far you can toss it.
- See how many items (e.g. beanbags) you can stack on top of each other (building a tower) before your tower topples.
- Talk about famous artist Christy Brown of My Left Foot fame who painted with his toes. Check out other foot painters at <http://www.mfpacanada.com/>, and then try creating art with your feet.



Questions to Ask

- Which objects were easy to pick up? What was similar about them?
- Which objects were difficult to pick up? What was similar about them?
- Did you have more success with your left foot or your right foot?
- What else can you do with your toes? (paint, draw)

- Watch some video of gorillas or monkeys using their feet to eat, climb, etc. Some even make art.



Looking for more?

More science activities for young children can be found at scienceworld.ca/preschool.html

This website has short videos, games and activities for 3–5 year olds peepandthebigwideworld.com

Our favourite books:

Healthy Opportunities for Preschoolers
Early Learning Practitioners Resource.
A Resource of Leap BC from 2010
Legacies Now

Eyewitness Books: Skeleton
ISBN 978-0-78945-834-6

Me and My Amazing Body by Joan Sweeney
ISBN 978-0-375806-23-0

Drumheller Dinosaur Dance by Robert Heidbreder
ISBN 155-3-37-393-6
ISBN 978-1-59857-044-1