

Name: alyson

My favorite science activity is: Exploring a pumpkin

Students create a kwl (what we know, what we want to know, what we learned) chart and have hands on experience with this fabulous squash!

Materials needed:

- Pumpkin or squash
- Teacher will use knife to cut it open
- Optional- baking pan, cooking, salt, oven to toast seeds

Process:

Teacher will cut the squash into sections to allow the children to explore on their own. Have the children tell you what it feels like. Have the children explore all the different ways they can separate the seeds. Have the children put seeds in separate location to be washed, coated in oil, sprinkled with salt and baked until brown. Be sure to have the children give you a prediction about what they think will happen to the seeds once they are cooked – color, texture, taste.

By doing this activity children will learn:

about colors, texture, temperature, seeds, taste, smell and touch

Leap themes covered

Color	Shape	Construction	Water	Bodies	Temperature	Rocks	Foods
X	X	X	X	X	X		X

Ideas submitted by participants at Language through Science presentation
NAEYC Chicago, II. November, 2007

8 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 812 • Chicago, Illinois 60603

Phone 312.578.1255 • **Fax** 312.578.1280 • **Web** leaplearningsystems.org

Name: meg

My favorite science activity is:
Hatching butterflies

Materials needed:

- Monarch caterpillars
- Milk weed
- Large jar or tank with air holes
- Grass, sticks, other outdoor items

Process:

Fill jar with grass, sticks, and leaves to create an 'outdoor environment' for the caterpillars. Put the caterpillars in the jar. The caterpillars will attach themselves to the top of the jar as they become chrysalises. Once hatched be sure the butterflies have sugar water or milkweed to feed on. Be sure to release your butterflies while they are strong so they can start their journey!

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Metamorphosis
- Growing / changes over time

Notes:

There are many commercial outlets for purchasing 'painted ladies' for hatching.

Leap themes covered

Color	Shape	Construction	Water	Bodies	Temperature	Rocks	Foods
X	X		X	X	X		X

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My favorite science activity is: Making silly putty

Materials needed:

- White glue
- Liquid starch
- Measuring cup, spoon, mixing bowl
- Container with an air tight seal

Process:

Mix 2 parts white glue with 1 part liquid starch. Let mixture dry slightly. Store in an airtight container.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- How to measure
- Mixing things together can cause change

Leap themes covered

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X	X	X			X		

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Name: laura

My favorite science activity is:
Fast cars

Materials needed:

- Variety of sizes of toy cars and trucks
- A variety of ramps – blocks, hollow blocks, etc.

Process:

Have the children construct ramps out of blocks, paper, and any materials you can find with a flat surface.

I set up 2 ramps and 2 “teams.” Each child chooses a toy truck/car and, as a group, we make a prediction on which will go faster. We encourage cheering for all vehicles. We made the ramp steeper and re-do our experiment to see if the results would be the same.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Size concepts
- To make predictions with the vehicles- which car/truck will go down the ramp faster (i.e. big wheels or small wheels, big car, small car)
- To make predictions with the ramps – which ramp works the best, helps the car/truck go faster
- New vocabulary
- Class building, social encouragement

Leap themes covered

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X	X	X					

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Name: theresa

My favorite science activity is:
Mixing cornstarch with water

Materials needed:

- Corn starch
- Water
- Optional - food coloring
- Measuring cups, spoons & bowls

Process:

With this activity allow the children to explore the materials by using varying amounts of the cornstarch and water to come up with different consistencies. Be sure to have them use their hands for mixing!

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Measuring & pouring liquids and solids
- Mixing colors
- Changes in form by combining different ingredients
- Sensory (temperature of hands change consistently)
- Textures

Leap themes covered

Color	Shape	Construction	Water	Bodies	Temperature	Rocks	Foods
X	X		X	X	X		

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Name: penny

My favorite science activity is:
Mentos and diet cola experiment

Materials needed:

- Mentos mints
- 2 liter bottle of diet cola

Process:

Put the 2-liter bottle of soda on floor. Ask the children what they think will happen when you drop the Mentos candy in it. Drop in the Mentos candy and watch the soda erupt!

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Reaction of one thing on another when combined

Notes:

It would be a much better idea to do this activity outside. We use diet soda because it is less sticky than regular soda!

Leap themes covered

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X	X						X

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My favorite science activity is:

Worms & recycling

Materials needed:

- Vermicompost
- Worm bin (red worms, not earth worms)
- Plastic containers with lids
- Fruits & vegetables

Process:

Store fruit and vegetable scraps in sealed plastic containers. Once the food begins to rot – show the children the red worms. Have the children make predictions about what will happen when the worms are added to the food. Add the worms. Check the worms and food daily. Make sure to address the children’s predictions. Allow them to draw what they see on a daily basis.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- That worms eat your leftover fruit/veggie scraps
- Observation: using senses - see, hear, smell, and touch
- Recycling

Leap themes covered

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Name: carolyn

My favorite science activity is:
Plants & seeds

Materials needed:

- Seeds
- Water
- Soil
- Containers

Process:

Using dirt and containers – plant your seeds and place the containers in different environments. Place some in a darkened room, some in a bright room, some in a cold environment, and some with just right conditions. Be sure to take predictions from the children as to which will grow the best.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- That everything – especially seeds, needs sunlight and water
- Some things even grow in the dark
- Cause and effect

Leap themes covered

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Name: cammie

My favorite science activity is:
Cutting a pumpkin & using the seeds to grow plants

Materials needed:

- Pumpkin
- Cup
- Knife – for teacher use only!
- Dirt
- Water

Process:

Cut the pumpkin in sections for the children to explore. Instead of roasting the seeds - try planting them in containers! Have the children put dirt in cups and add the seeds. Be sure to engage the children's curiosity by allowing them to make predictions!

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Life cycle of plant life
- How to keep a plant alive- it needs water and light
- It takes time for plants to grow
- Not everyone's plant will sprout at the same time

Leap themes covered

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Name: lilly

My favorite science activity is:
Taking a nature walk

Materials needed:

- None!

By doing this activity children will learn:

- About nature first hand and hands-on
- About 5 senses (what you see, smell, hear, etc.) by exploring
- To increase vocabulary of “scientific words”
- About weather and the various changes
- Observation, categorizing & experimentation

Notes:

Take walks weekly/monthly – talk about the changes, life cycles, etc.
Be sure to collect objects to later explore, observe, manipulate.
Graph the weather everyday (cloudy vs. Sunny days, etc.)

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Name: hollie

My favorite science activity is:
Clean mud

Materials needed:

- Ivory or Dove bar soap
- Toilet tissue
- Borax
- Water – warm enough to melt soap

Process:

- Break up the soap into smaller pieces and/or grate the soap with a cheese grater
- Tear up toilet paper into small pieces
- Mix grated soap and ripped toilet paper in a large bowl
- Add warm water gradually while mixing the paper and soap
- Stop adding water when it has the consistency of thickened cream

By doing this activity children will learn:

- multi-sensory workings
- to use their small motor skills
- measurement

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Name: karen

My favorite science activity is:
Making a volcano

Materials needed:

- Salt & dough
- Baking soda
- Red paint
- Vinegar

Process:

1. Have children mix salt and dough
2. Form a volcano with at least a 2” deep hole on the top
3. Let dry for 2 or 3 days
4. Mix baking soda with red paint
5. Add to the hole in the volcano
6. Ask the children what they think will happen when the vinegar gets poured in the hole
7. Child pours vinegar into “volcano” and it “erupts”
8. Be sure to go back over the children’s predictions

By doing this activity children will learn:

- what happens when an acid and base are mixed together
- looks can be deceiving – the bubbles look hot but when invited to touch them – the children learn that they are cold to the touch
- explain that the bubbles are the same gas they breathe out (CO₂)

Notes: reuse your volcano. Just add more baking soda and vinegar

Leap themes covered

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X	X	X		X	X	X	

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My favorite science activity is:
Counting/sorting activity

Materials needed:

- Snack mix, pretzels, popcorn
- Paper for making graphs

Process:

- Take ¼ c. of ingredient mixture
- Color how many of each item on graph

Example:

Pretzel
Popcorn
Square
Circle

By doing this activity children will learn:

- counting & sorting
- number association with objects
- small motor development

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X	X			X			

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Name: denise

My favorite science activity is:
Mixing colors

Materials needed:

- White icing or marshmallow cream
- Food coloring - primary colors
- Graham crackers
- Plastic knives
- Paper plates

Process:

- Children use combinations of primary colors to mix with the white icing or cream

By doing this activity children will learn:

- things change
- mixing colors makes new colors

Leap themes covered

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X				X			X

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Name: lisa

My favorite science activity is:

What happens when you put raisins in lemon-lime soda?

Materials needed:

- Lemon lime soda
- Clear plastic cups (1 per child)
- Raisins (3-4 per child)

Process:

- Add raisins to cup of soda
- Raisins will sink to the bottom (density)
- Air bubbles will form on the raisins and they will float to the top
- The bubbles pop and they sink to the bottom again
- Watch the raisins dance!

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Process
 - Sink and explode
 - Float to the top
 - Disintegrate
 - Dance up and down

Leap themes covered

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X	X		X	X			X

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Name: lori

My favorite science activity is:
Dancing raisins

Materials needed:

- Dry raisins
- Vinegar
- Baking soda
- Teaspoon, measuring cup
- Small clear cup (1 per student)

Procedure:

- Make observations
- Hypothesize & revise hypothesis

By doing this activity children will learn:

- science is fun!
- to look closely/observe what is happening – in this case: bubbles carry raisin up to top, as they reach the top they turn the raisin over, bubbles pop and the raisin drops back down, bubbles cling to the other side and cause the raisin to go back up to the surface where the process will repeat itself.
- learn to look at whole process (document, follow directions)
- what will happen with just vinegar/baking soda/wet raisins?
- how much/how little baking soda still works?

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X	X			X			

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Name: kathy

My favorite science activity is:
Glitter germs

Materials needed:

- Lotion
- Glitter
- Soap & water
- Paper towels

Process:

- Put lotion on your hands
- Sprinkle glitter on the lotion
- The glitter will only come off with warm soap and water
- If you touch your friends, the glitter comes off on them
- If you touch toys or other things in the room – the glitter/germs go on those, too

By doing this activity children will learn:

- the importance of stopping the spread of germs by hand washing and covering cough and sneeze

Leap themes covered

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X			X	X			

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Name: janet

My favorite science activity is:
Freezing water balloons to build a snowman

Materials needed:

- Balloons
- Water
- Food coloring
- Pans
- Salt

Process:

- Fill 3 different sized – small, medium, large water balloons with water
- Freeze overnight
- Peel the balloon off the ice balls
- Place in a large bin or roasting pan for the children to explore

By doing this activity children will learn:

- various states of liquids
- children can compare sizes of balloons
- children can stack the ice in different ways

Leap themes covered

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	X		X		X		

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My favorite science activity is: Making play dough

Materials needed:

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup salt
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 cup water
- Food coloring
- 2 teaspoons oil

Process:

- Follow play-dough recipe – below:

In a medium sized saucepan or crock-pot, combine flour, salt, and cream of tartar.

Over medium heat, gradually stir in the water, food coloring and oil.

Continue cooking, stirring continuously, until mixture forms into a sticky ball.

Remove from heat.

Let cool for at least 15-30 minutes. Knead until smooth.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Cooperation
- Cause/effect
- Sensory integration
- Follow directions
- Color mixing
- Liquid/solid

Leap themes covered

Color	Shape	Construction	Water	Bodies	Temperature	Rocks	Foods
X	X		X		X	X	

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My favorite science activity is: Snowflake catcher

Materials needed:

- Felt
- Snow

Process:

- Make snowflake catcher with felt: cut out 5 x 5 inch pieces of felt or black construction paper.
- Put catcher outside before using to come to a cooler temperature
- Have snowflakes fall on catcher
- Observe the size/shape of the snowflakes

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Weather
- Shape and sizes
- What snow is

Notes:

Leap themes covered

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X	X		X		X		

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Name: kimberly

My favorite science activity is:
Effects of an acid on enamel

Materials needed:

- Eggs
- Vinegar
- Glass cup or bowl

Process:

- Pass the egg around, allowing children to handle it carefully. If one breaks, do not worry. It will be messy, but you will be able to use pieces of the shell in this experiment.
- Pour vinegar in several short glasses and put the eggs in the glasses.
- Several times during the day, allow children to press lightly on the eggshell
- After a day, the eggshell will be soft to the touch.
- Talk with children about the changes they feel and why the changes might be occurring.
- If you have access to a kitchen, fry the eggs after the experiment is done, letting children taste and describe the sensation.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- What happens to the health of the shell once it sits in vinegar? (the enamel melts/dissolves away and the egg becomes like rubber)

Leap themes covered

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	X		X				X

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Name: geisel

My favorite science activity is:
Making a storm in the milk

Materials needed:

- Dawn dish soap (has to be Dawn)
- Whole white milk
- Food coloring
- Squeeze bottles
- Buckets or large containers

Process:

- Get a bucket or large container full of milk
- Add dots of food coloring to the milk. Do not stir.
- Squeeze Dawn soap on the food coloring but do not stir –colors move and flow like a storm

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Colors
- What makes the food color move?
- Why do you think it does this?
- Could we do it with another type of soap?

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X			X		X		

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My favorite science activity is: Seasonal items placed in dry table

Materials needed:

- Fall
 - Corn cob and/or kernels: field corn and multicolored corn
 - Dried leaves, add fresh green leaves as well
- Winter
 - Beans
 - Spaghetti shapes, colored pasta

Process:

- Add materials to the dry water table, or put them in shoe-box sized containers at the science center
- Include magnifying glasses, paper and writing implements for recording observations – also add glue & paper for constructions
- Discuss concepts and vocabulary using open ended questions as your students explore the materials

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Tactile sensations and vocabulary
- Seasonal changes

Notes: as you speak with children, add enrichment vocabulary, explore how items change with time, for example - from green to brown leaf, flour to pasta, plant to seed, etc.

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Name: eva

My favorite science activity is:
Study of trees

Materials needed:

- Toilet paper tube
- Straws
- Hole puncher
- Tissue paper (green or fall colors)

Process:

- Read the book: A Tree is Nice by Janice Udry
- Make or purchase a poster of trees with part labels- have the children label the tree with the parts
- Take a walk through the schoolyard:
 - Look at trees and identify the parts
 - Be sure to lie under the tree and look up!
- Craft suggestion:
 - Paint tube brown
 - Glue it on to cardstock – representing the ground
 - Punch holes in tube
 - Insert cut out straws – representing branches
 - Glue bunched up tissue paper – leaves, onto branches

By doing this activity children will learn:

- The 4 basic parts of a tree (roots, trunk, branches, leaves)

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Name: cathy

My favorite science activity is:
Pollution

Materials needed:

- Tap water
- Buckets
- Items selected by children to pollute water
 - dirt, dry leaves, dust, soil, soap
- Plants

Process

- Make polluted water by adding things the children find outside and around the room (use new background knowledge from books read to them)
- Take clean tap water and use different things such as strainers with paper towels to pour water through
- Water newly planted seedlings- half of them with polluted water, half with clean water
- Predict outcomes and make observations in science journals as you watch over a period of one month or so

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Effects of pollution on living things
- Textures & colors

Leap themes covered

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X			X	X	X	X	

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Name: roberta

My favorite science activity is:
Retelling the story Peter and the Wolf using props and sensory materials for setting and characters

Materials needed:

- Peter and the Wolf cutouts with Velcro backing that show story background (forest, fields, etc.)
- Bark from trees
- Sandpaper for grandfather's house
- Fake fur & feathers

Process:

- Let students assemble constructions using their materials, including the cutouts
- Allow time for children to display their constructions in small groups –that day or later in the week.
- Take digital photos and put them on your 'parent wall', or send black and white photos home to the parents.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Positional concepts
- Sensory concepts
- Cause and effect
- Sequencing
- Turn-taking
- Music exploration

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My favorite science activity is: Hatching chicks

Materials needed:

- 1 incubator
- 12 fertilized eggs
- 1 excited classroom of children

Process:

- Do not do this activity unless adoption arrangements for the chicks are in place.
- Follow the directions on incubator for hatching chicks
- Chart changes in the eggs on a 'hatching calendar'

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Miracle of life
- "change over time"

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Name: kia

My favorite science activity is:
Mixing primary colors to make secondary colors

Materials needed:

- Clear glasses
- Water
- Food coloring (red, yellow, blue)

Process:

- Drop primary colors into water. Do not stir. Watch colors spread.
- Try differences in warm water, cold water, and water with ice cubes.
 - Water with clear gelatin will also be interesting
- Discuss the changes.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Mixing two colors can make another

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X			X		X		

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Name: diana

My favorite science activity is: Grass pets

Materials needed:

- Grass seed
- Soil
- Nylon stocking
- Sun
- Water
- Googly eyes

Process:

- Fill the stocking tip with one cup of soil mixed with 2 teaspoons of grass seed
 - You can use one stocking knotted in several places to make multiple 'pets', filling each pocket with soil.
- Dip the stocking in water to keep the soil moist. Hang the stocking in a window or near an incandescent bulb.
- Watch the grass seed sprout in about a week. Add googly eyes.
- Countdown the days till grass sprouts using a grass pet calendar.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Plant life
- Growing cycle
- Caring for the environment

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			X		X		

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Name: alberto

My favorite science activity is:
Sink or float

Materials needed:

- Bucket
- Water
- Items of different sizes and materials (cork, plastic, metal, etc.)

Process:

- Arrange items by size, material, size, color, or any other classification.
- Let students immerse items.
- Discuss whether they could predict sinking or floating items by size, color, shape, etc.

By doing this activity children will learn:

- Hypothesis testing
- Qualities of different material and water

Leap themes covered

Color	Shape	Construction	Water	Bodies	Temperature	Rocks	Foods
X	X		X				

Ideas submitted by participants at Language through Science presentation
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