What is Focused Exploration?

- The purpose of Focused Exploration (FE) is to give children opportunities to investigate specific questions in depth.
- The teacher designs the exploration to give children the support, materials, and time they need to deepen their understanding.
- Exploration focuses on a specific task or challenge.
- Science talks are used to share experiences and ideas.
- More teacher-focused and teacher-directed.
- Give children opportunities to investigate specific questions in depth.
- Give children the support, materials, and time they need to deepen their understanding.
- Challenge children to think deeply about the subject.

What is the Difference Between Open Exploration and Focused Exploration?

- In Open Exploration (OE), students determine what they will build. The teacher does not direct play, but through questioning and observation, assesses student interests and understandings.
- In FE, the class works towards a shared challenge. The teacher facilitates sharing of successful strategies and provides resources. The teacher is more interactive, but still supportive, rather than instructive.
- In open exploration, students determine what they will build. The teacher does not direct play, but through questioning and observation, assesses student interests and understandings.
In focused exploration, the class works towards a shared challenge. The teacher facilitates sharing of successful strategies and provides resources. The teacher is more interactive, but still supportive, rather than instructive.

When to Transition from Open Exploration to Focused Exploration?

Look for most children to do the following

• Become deliberate in how they spend their choice time
• Choose to engage with the ‘science center’ regularly
• Willingly discuss/narrate their activities during choice time.

Remember

• Each class is different, each student is different
• Your students may be ready now, or several weeks from now to transition to focused exploration
• Science inquiry is explored deeply and over time
• In open exploration, students determine what they will build. The teacher does not direct play, but through questioning and observation, assesses student interests and understandings.
• In focused exploration, the class works towards a shared challenge. The teacher facilitates sharing of successful strategies and provides resources. The teacher is more interactive, but still supportive, rather than instructive.