



SCIENCE IN PRE-K

A Partnership between PNC Grow Up Great,
DCPS and the National Air and Space Museum

Play and Inquiry

Play is a fundamental component in the education of young children. It gives children opportunities to make connections through engaging, age-appropriate activity. Play is a natural fit in inquiry learning for young children. As a teacher, your role is to maintain the framework of inquiry learning while encouraging play.

A Framework for Play in Inquiry Learning

- Play and inquiry start with exploration, but inquiry follows exploration with documentation and reflection.
- Support children's play with appropriate materials that will engage and challenge them to think, while enjoying their exploration.
- Follow-up periods of play (this can vary from a day, a couple of days, even a week) with documentation and reflection.

Reflection

- Reflection is a crucial part of inquiry science. Students need the lifelong skill of documenting what they have done and reflecting upon their work.
- Science Talks are a simple way to reflect with your students, and can be developed in different ways for any learning situation.
- Photographs can document observations and explorations and serve as an excellent tool for reflection
- Science Journals keep a written record of explorations
- Drawing pictures
- Simple charts and graphs can be created with the guidance of a teacher