

SCIENCE IN PRE-K

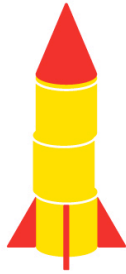
A Partnership between PNC Grow Up Great,
DCPS and the National Air and Space Museum

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.



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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.