



SCIENCE IN PRE-K

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

What is Open Exploration?

- An engaging environment for students to explore materials
- Students engage in undirected “play”
- Teachers mostly question and observe

Open Exploration in your classroom

- Carefully planned environment
- Teacher support
- Individual children’s interests
- Early learning can be drawn out with conversation.
- Children are observing and learning from each other – the teacher draws out what they are observing and considering

What will Open Exploration look like?

- Step 1: Introduce children to the science subject (duration about a week)
 - Talk about prior experiences
 - Introduce materials
 - Choice time/Center time
- Step 2: Ongoing exploration and reflections (2-3 weeks)
 - Continue to introduce new materials/props
 - Acknowledge play
 - Encourage reluctant explorers