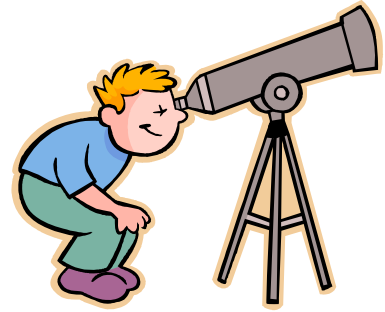


# MAKING DISCOVERIES AND SOLVING PROBLEMS

Children are natural scientists! They wonder about their environment. They take apart objects and try putting them together again. Children use their senses to collect and sort information. They investigate, predict, and sort their information. Your explanations about why or how something happens are important to your child. If you don't know an answer, you can model for your child how to find the answer.



Here are some activities for you and your child that will help promote discovery and problem-solving skills:

- ♥ Cut across an apple and notice that the seeds form a star. Cut other fruits and compare your findings.
- ♥ Make a collection of round objects. Notice which ones roll and which ones don't.
- ♥ Let your child help you water plants. Remove dead leaves and blossoms. Cut flowers and place them in water. Talk about what you notice.
- ♥ Gather a variety of leaves. Compare the shapes, sizes, and textures.
- ♥ Make instant pudding together. Put two spoons of pudding powder into  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of milk in a tightly sealed container. Shake until the pudding starts to thicken. Talk about the changes you notice.
- ♥ Watch an ice cube melt, or make freezer pops.
- ♥ Watch clouds change. Talk about the shape, size, color, and movement of the clouds.
- ♥ Blow bubbles together. Talk about how bubbles move and why they pop.
- ♥ Hide some familiar objects in a bag or box. Ask your child to guess the hidden object by feeling it with his hands. *No looking before you guess!*
- ♥ Let your child help you care for a pet.
- ♥ Plant some seeds and watch them grow. Talk about how the plants need water, sun, and air.
- ♥ Talk to your child about the weather. Help make the connection between the weather and the clothes that should be worn.
- ♥ Watch a sunrise or a sunset. Talk about the colors of the sun and the sky and the way the light changes.
- ♥ Take a walk at night—listen to the sounds, observe the moon, and smell the air.

