



At an early age, all children have the capacity and the natural desire to observe, explore, and discover the world around them ([NRC, 2012](#)). Mastery of these standards will result in young learners who have a deep understanding of how scientific knowledge can provide solutions to practical problems we see in our world.

Expectations for Preschool Students:

- **Physical Science:** Make observations and describe properties of materials. Recognize the cause and effect relationships between matter and energy.
- **Life Science:** Recognize that all living things have unique characteristics and basic needs and that living things develop in predictable patterns.
- **Earth Science:** Learn about the world around them by observing patterns related to changes in weather, seasons, and day and night. Explore natural objects, like rocks, soil, and sand and their different uses.

Throughout Preschool You May Find Students:

- Investigating different types of energy by exploring shadows and light, observing the sounds different musical instruments make.
- Discovering what makes an object move faster or slower.
- Looking at patterns in the weather, and keeping track of how the weather changes from day to day.
- Observing and engaging with live animals and plants and toys/stuffed animals and discuss the difference between living and nonliving things.
- Making observations about animals and plants they might see in their local environment.
- Using their senses and simple tools to explore natural materials.
- Making observations about daily weather conditions.