Sample questions for assessing children’s learning and ability to use inquiry skills related to exploring/engaging in conversations/representing

**Assessing Children’s Science Learning; Sample of Suggested Questions for Teachers**

**Exploring/Observing**

Does child:
- Observe objects and events with curiosity?
- Use simple tools to extend observations?
- Engage in simple explorations and investigations?
- Ask or indicate “what would happen if?” questions (What would happen if I touched the caterpillar?)
- Become focused on pursuing a specific investigation (How are these two trees the same and different?)
- Participate in designing simple investigations (Provide ideas about tools needed or where to look for living things?)
- Compare and contrast objects and events and look for patterns? (Notice that all plants observed have roots, stem, leaves.)

**Using language to communicate findings**

Does child:
- Respond to direct questions about physical characteristics and needs of living things?
- Contribute more detailed descriptions and ideas about living things in conversations?
- Mention various characteristics when describing a plant or animal?
- Share questions, ideas, and wonderings in science talks?
- Listen and respond to the observations and ideas of others?
- Use photos and drawings as props for communicating?

**Recording and representing experiences**

Does child:
- Demonstrate observations through body movements?
- Choose representation items intentionally? (different shades of green to draw a plant)
- Make simple drawings that illustrate one characteristic of a plant or animal?
- Make drawings that illustrate two or three characteristics?
- Make detailed, realistic drawings?
- Talk about the drawing, identifying different parts?