

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?