

Upcoming Theme

Does the following theme not fit your idea? Don't let that stop you from writing!
We always make room for good manuscripts on any elementary science topic.



Issue: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

Theme: **Making Space for Creativity in the Science Classroom**

Deadline: **February 1, 2025**

Where does creativity fit in science? The answer is everywhere. Science and creativity are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are intertwined in every aspect of scientific discovery. However, in elementary science classrooms, the focus is often on memorizing vocabulary and understanding concepts, leaving little room for the crucial element of creativity. This approach can lead our students to view science as a rigid collection of facts and procedures, devoid of the excitement, challenges, and creative potential that it truly holds.

For students to truly learn science, they must be actively engaged. They need opportunities to experiment, investigate, make mistakes, explore alternatives, and apply creative practices. The NGSS and the *Framework* encourage moving away from teacher-directed lessons with predetermined outcomes toward more open-ended sensemaking opportunities. The NGSS state, "Scientists and engineers rely on human qualities such as persistence, precision, reasoning, logic, imagination and creativity" (NGSS Lead States 2013, p. 100).

We, as educators, play a crucial role in structuring effective learning experiences for our students. By sharing our creative spirit, we can empower learners to take the reins of their learning, determining what they need to know to solve problems, answer questions, and make sense of the world around them.

For this issue of *Science and Children*, we will focus on fostering creativity in the classroom. Article suggestions for this issue include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Share your experiences and strategies for implementing project-based learning in the science classroom to foster creative thinking and student engagement.
- Discuss how involving students in competitions and science fairs can enhance their creative and critical thinking skills, providing real-world applications of their learning.
- Describe how incorporating engineering tasks into the curriculum allows students to develop and test models, encouraging creativity and persistence.
- Provide examples of how connecting students with working scientists can inspire and enhance their creative thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Share how using robots and technology in the classroom has stimulated students' imagination and creativity.
- Explore strategies for creating a classroom culture that embraces failure as a vital part of the learning process, encouraging students to analyze, refine, and invent solutions to problems.

Audience

- PreK-5 teachers
- University faculty
- State and district supervisors and leaders

Schedule

Six times a year

Formats

Print and e-journal

About the Journal

Science and Children is an award-winning, peer-reviewed, practitioners' journal. Subscribers are members of the National Science Teaching Association who select it as their preferred journal. We hope you will consider writing a manuscript for Science and Children to interest our readers and enhance preschool and elementary science teaching. NSTA offers no remuneration for published articles.

Questions?

Contact managing editor
Valynda Mayes at vmayes@nsta.org.

Enhance preschool and elementary science teaching with your experience.

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