



# TIPS FOR TEACHERS USING THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

The scientific method is a series of steps that help children understand their world. Below is a guide to help teachers encourage children to use this process in the classroom. Please note these steps may not always occur in this order (e.g., a teacher might ask students to make predictions prior to observing). It is important for teachers to be intentional and incorporate the steps of the scientific method across various activities. Strategies used in the scientific method (e.g., questioning, experimenting, etc.) can be used to support children's learning across several other domains of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework (see other supporting documents from the scientific method in-service suite for examples).

## Steps of the scientific method:

## Some possible suggestions:

### QUESTION

Help children form their own questions related to their world.

Prompt children to create questions regarding the topic at hand.

### OBSERVE

Ask children to use their senses and closely observe the world around them.

Encourage children to see, hear, smell, taste, and touch materials when appropriate.

### PREDICT

Encourage children to predict, or make a guess, about the answer to their question.

Ask children to share, based on their observations, what they think the answer to their question might be.

### EXPERIMENT

Provide opportunities for children to experiment and test their predictions.

Incorporate hands-on activities for children that allow them to test their predictions.

### DISCUSS

Allow children to discuss the results of their experiment.

Talk about the results of the experiment and review key points learned.