

7. Nature/Science (Item 25 – Page 253)

Collections of natural objects: (in different sizes and shapes)

- _____ Rocks
- _____ Seashells
- _____ Insects
- _____ Leaves
- _____ Seed pods
- _____ Different types of wood
- _____ Pinecones
- _____ Birds' nests

Living things: (to care for and observe)

- _____ House plants, terrarium, seeds that children plant and watch grow
- _____ Garden the class planted and cares for
- _____ Class pet
- _____ Window bird feeder
- _____ Aquarium with fish snails, or other animals
- _____ Ant farm with living ants
- _____ Worm farm
- _____ Butterfly hatching kit
- _____ Eggs that hatch

Books, games or toys: (realistic and fact based)

- _____ Books (realistic pictures, photos, or drawings)
 - Animals
 - Plants
 - Birds
 - Fish
 - Human body
 - Seasons
 - Weather
 - Plants
- _____ Games
 - Nature matching cards
 - Nature sequence cards
 - Body part matching games
 - Board games with a nature theme
 - Factual nature/science videos or computer games
- _____ Toys (portray natural life)
 - Plastic sets of animals
 - Puzzles with nature pictures or natural sequences

Nature/science activities:

- Magnets with objects to experiment with
- Magnifying glasses with things to look at

- Sink and float activity, with objects to use in an experiment
- Racing cars down slopes that vary in length and incline
- Shaking cans filled with differing substances to match and compare sounds
- Smelling and matching cans filled with different spices
- Using plastic translucent color paddles to make colors that match objects
- Cooking foods that change when mixed, cooled, cooked
- Completing a weather chart, after looking to see the weather
- Using a rain gauge to record how much rain fell
- Planting seeds and/or a garden and taking care of it
- Tasting and comparing sweet, sour, bitter, salty
- Lifting objects with levers and pulleys
- Using different length pendulums with different weights
- Looking at objects under a simple microscope

IMPORTANT:

- In addition to center materials, you **must** provide a theme related activity within the center (see examples above)
- Realistic and fact-based books, games, videos, computer games, and toys, used to extend knowledge, can be located throughout the classroom.
- Materials should encourage or allow children to experiment with scientific concepts or observe scientific processes unfold
- 3-5 examples from at least 3 categories accessible for a substantial portion of the day
- Sufficient numbers of the objects in each collection must be present to allow for exploration of similarities and or differences
- Nature/science activities requiring staff input offered at least every two weeks (cooking, measuring rainfall, field trips)

I need: _____