

Discovery

Most young children are curious about and fascinated by the natural world around them. To learn to understand their surroundings, they use their senses-hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch. They need many safe hands-on opportunities to explore and experiment with the natural world.

Providing children with many and varied nature/science experiences and materials to examine and experiment with is the beginning of fostering their questioning and knowledge about nature and science. Staff can then add vocabulary and other information, and they can encourage children to think and talk about what they discover.

All About ECERS-3 Item 22. page 275 and 277



TN ELDS Guiding Principles: *Four-year-old Children are active, eager learners. A primary approach to learning is through purposeful, meaningful play. Intentional planning promotes rich learning experiences that invites participation, involve multiple contexts, and engage the senses which help children explore their environment.*

Head Start ELOF: *Teaching must be intentional and focused on how children learn and grow. Children are active, engaged, and eager learners. Good teaching practices build on those intrinsic strengths by providing developmentally appropriate instruction and meaningful play.*

ECERS-3 Item 22. page 57

5.1 At least 15 nature/science materials, some from each of 5 categories, are accessible in a clearly defined nature science interest center, for at least 1 hour during the observation.

* Notes for Clarification (ECERS-3 page 56) 1.1, 3.1, 5.1. "Nature/science materials" include **(1) Living things** the children can observe closely or care for; **(2) natural objects** (bird's nest; leaves, insects in transparent plastic; rocks; seashells; collection of seeds); **(3) factual books/nature-science picture games**; **(4) tools** (magnifying glasses; magnets) and **(5) sand or water toys** (measuring cups; digging tools and containers).

1) Living things

- Fish
- planned beans

3) Factual books/nature-science picture games

- books on the shelf (8 books)
- puzzle

4) Tools

- magnifying glasses
- magnets
- sound game material
- magnet and some objects

5) Sand and water with toys

- measuring cups
- sand toys

2) Natural objects

- okra seed pods
- seashells and sand dollars
- magnolia seed pods
- rocks
- Insect life cycle in the magnifying lab
- insect in acrylics

