



The Great Start Collaboratives in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties in collaboration with United Way for Southeastern Michigan are committed to ensuring that families are supported in helping their children learn and grow. You are receiving this email because you have completed the online Ages and Stages (ASQ) Developmental Screening tool for your child(ren). We hope you find the additional information useful!

## Building Science Skills

Science is the study of the world and how it works. Children are natural scientists! Curiosity leads children to explore the world around them by experimenting, making predictions, testing observations and investigating. By providing opportunities and materials, children begin to learn key content and principles of science, such as; the structure and property of matter (hard and soft, sink and float), the difference between the living world and non-living world (animals vs. rocks) and simple tools in observing scientific phenomena (watercolor painting, mixing paints to create colors). This is how young children learn about the world they live in. Through hands on experiences, you can help your child expand their knowledge by helping them seek answers to their questions and create meaningful connections to their experiences.

### Exploring Science

**Observation Skills** - A great way to develop a child's observation skills is to allow them to identify attributes that are the same and different with other people, animals, objects or pictures.

**Recording Information** - Children love to collect, describe and record their environment! Try taking a walk outside and allow your child to collect natural items (pinecones, acorns, pebbles, twigs) sort through the findings with your child and discuss the feel of each item.

**Cause and Effect** - What happens next?

Remember to ask your child open ended questions to allow them to process and hypothesize. Using primary colored paint to create secondary colors is a great way for children to recognize cause and effect and predict outcomes.

### Play at Home

- **0-3 months:** After bath time, brush a sampling of different textured objects over their belly.
- **3-6 months:** Hang a wind chime close to where you feed your baby. They will enjoy watching and listening during feeding.
- **6-9 months:** Give your baby a rattle or small toy to splash with during bath time.
- **9-12 months:** Give your baby plastic food storage containers for playing and stacking. Point out the similarities and differences to your child!
- **12-18 months:** Freeze a small bath toy in a paper cup filled with water. Peel off the cup and watch as the ice melts in the bathtub.
- **18-24 months:** Move like a variety of animals (for example: hop like a bunny, slither like a snake); have your child point out specific animals in books!
- **24-30 months:** Help your toddler plant a seed, teach them to care for it and watch it grow! Don't forget to let your child explore the feeling of the seeds and the dirt too!

- **30-36 months:** Take a "quiet walk" outside. Notice all the sounds and talk about where they might be coming from and collect some natural items to explore at home.

### Try these websites for more ideas:

- [www.pbs.org/parents/education/science/activities/preschooler-kindergarten](http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/science/activities/preschooler-kindergarten)
- [families.naeyc.org](http://families.naeyc.org)

## REMINDER:

Your next developmental questionnaire is available online!

Remember to do an ASQ on your child every few months to update their development and learn new activities to do at home. Access the questionnaire for your county at the website below:

[helpmegrow-mi.org](http://helpmegrow-mi.org)