Children are natural scientists because they are so curious. They ask lots of questions to help make sense of their world.

1. **Questioning:**
Children develop curiosity and thinking skills when you ask them questions like:
- what does it feel, look, taste, smell, sound like?
- what would happen if…?
- how does…?
- what if ..?
- how can you..?

2. **Science and numbers:**
Science uses maths to describe things like:
- more and less to compare things
- high and low, big and little, full and empty, how long and how many to measure things
- heavy and light to weigh things
- sorting and grouping to compare what is similar or different
- up and down to learn about position
- top, bottom and edge to learn about area
- straight, curved and bent to learn about shape.

3. **Science and literacy:**
Ask your children to describe an object for someone who cannot see it. See how many different words they can come up with.

**Fun activities**

a. **In the bath:** Test different objects in the bath to see what floats or sinks. Ask your child to guess what will happen before testing each object. Ask questions like Why do some things float and others sink? and How can you make the floating object sink?

b. **In the kitchen:** Make jelly. Describe the jelly crystals before and after water is added and how they change from a solid to a liquid and back to a solid. Make play-dough and create different shapes. Add peppermint oil, glitter or sand to change the smell or texture.

Show your children how to be kind to the environment by reducing, reusing, recycling and rethinking how everyday items are used.
c. In the backyard: Create a small garden plot. Plant vegetables and flower seeds and watch them grow. Lie on your backs and watch the clouds, asking your children to describe what colours and shapes they can see. Lie under a tree and watch the movement of the leaves and branches. Use a magnifying glass to investigate different insects. Make bubbles, asking your children questions like What makes the bubbles float?, What makes the bubbles pop? and How long can a bubble stay in the air?

d. At the beach: Ask your children to smell the ocean air and look and listen to the sound of the waves. Ask questions like How many different birds can you hear?, What does the sand feel like? and Where is the water coming from?

e. About the body: Draw an outline of your child on a piece of paper. Help them label the different parts of the body like arms, legs, head, brain, heart and stomach. Talk about the uses of each body part. Next time you are at the doctors’ surgery, ask if they can use the stethoscope to hear their heart beat. Mark the heights of your children on a growth chart.

Suggested reading
1. Who Sank the Boat by Pamela Allen
2. Mr Archimedes’ Bath by Pamela Allen
3. The Enormous Turnip by Alexsei Tolstoy
4. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Tools for young scientists
Magnifying glass: To discover the world in much greater detail.
Treasure bag: To collect and store objects to examine and compare at home.

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