

First Friends Preschool

SCIENCE TABLE INSTRUCTIONS:

Thanks for volunteering to help with our Science Table activities! We couldn't do it without you. Morning volunteers should plan to be here from 9-10:00, and afternoon volunteers from 1:30-2:30 on their assigned day. It works best if you do not arrive earlier or stay later, as that time will be scheduled with other activities and we want the children to stay focused on their daily projects.

I will send home a reminder to you prior to your day. Please call me or arrange for a replacement, if you are unable to be here on your day. Younger siblings may join you as long as they do not prevent you from giving your attention to the science group. The Science Table is something special for our Prek classes, and they need to do their best. If they are having a hard time settling down or listening, just wait a moment for everyone to show you that they are ready. Science Table will usually be set up in our entryway to keep noise and distractions to a minimum and to allow the rest of the class to do another activity with me in another part of the classroom.

The Science Table is scheduled once a month and follows a theme that coordinates with the rest of that month's activities. You will be introducing the topic to several groups of children. Some of the topics are magnetism, forests, ants, seeds, worms and bears.

The activities will be set up for you. You do not need to prepare or bring anything with you. If you would like to take a look at the guidelines for your theme prior to your day, just let me know and I will send them home with your preschooler. If you do read these ahead of time, just be sure to bring them with you on your Science Table day as I only have a few copies of each topic.

When you arrive, please review the guidelines briefly and I will send you a group of children. Typically, you will work with either three groups of four or four groups of three at a time.

The groups may vary on how long they take, which activities interest them and which they want to do. I usually plan about 12-15 minutes per group. When they are finished at your table, give each of them some "Bunny Money" which they will put into their Bunny Money pocket chart. They will then return to the classroom and rejoin us and I will send you another group.

Most times, you will start by reading them a story to introduce the topic, followed by some discussion and then they can choose from several possible projects, crafts or hands-on exploration of the theme. There will be more activities offered than they can complete in the time planned, but you can remind them that they can finish coloring it at home or work on it later at school. The rest of the projects will be out and available for them during classtime the rest of that week.

Let me know if you need something, or if you have questions or suggestions. In past years, the children and parent volunteers have really enjoyed exploring these topics. And, working with another adult is really great preparation for kindergarten. Have fun at the Science Table and thanks, again, for your help.

Vicki