

Activity Summaries

- What is a Scientist?** Children consider and share what they know about scientists and begin to see themselves in the role of scientists.
- Opening the Box** To set the stage for the study, children explore the materials that accompany the study and ponder how they might use the items for scientific exploration.
- Rainbow Effects: Prism** Children communicate observations and ideas as they describe rainbows, then explore how to make rainbows in the classroom using a prism and a light source.
- Seeing Light and Color** Children participate in a variety of experiences to help them develop an initial understanding of how light affects our ability to see in color as well as in black and white.
- Mixing Colored Pigments** Children explore the process of mixing colors by experimenting with familiar art materials.
- Finding Hidden Colors** Children explore colors by separating them. Children explore how motion can create the effect of blended color.
- Spinning Colors**
- Mixing Colored Light** Children explore the primary colors of light by displaying and mixing them. They compare the results of mixing colored light with their experiences mixing colored pigments, such as paint or playdough.
- Rainbow Effects** Children explore another way to make rainbows, this time using a tub of water, a mirror, and a light source.
- Tub and Mirror**
- Rainbow Effects** Children observe changing patterns of color on the surface of a bubble using a light source to enhance the effects.
- Bubbles**
- Rainbow Effects** The class experiments with a water source to generate rainbows outdoors on a sunny day.
- Outdoors**
- Rainbow Effects** Children consider the rainbow effects they've created and try to make some generalizations about what they did and observed.
- Recipe for Rainbows**
- Rainbows in the Sky** Children consider the link between the rainbow effects they've generated and "real" rainbows. They also look for opportunities to see a rainbow outdoors when the conditions seem right.
- Exploring Light and Shadow** Children develop and test theories as they experiment with shadows and the relationship between light and shadows.
- Making Colored Windows** Children further explore the effects of light and color by making "stained glass windows."