CORE SCIENCE MODULE DESCRIPTIONS FOR HIGHFIVE

Senses (Insights*)
Children are provided with a variety of experiences that encourage them to use all their senses to more closely observe and describe objects and phenomena around them. They compare, sort, and classify objects by various properties. They compare their senses one to the other, raising questions of what it would be like to be unable to hear, see, taste, touch, and smell.

Myself and Others (Insights*)
Children look at themselves and their classmates and explore similarities and differences in such characteristics as height, eye color, and hand size. They become aware of how they are similar to those children they may see as different because of a physical characteristic (such as skin color) and how they are different from those children they may otherwise see as similar. This module helps to create a positive, supportive atmosphere in which children can realize and appreciate that although each of them is unique, they all share many similar characteristics.

Interactions (MPS)
MPS Interactions Unit contains a set of activities that engage children in examining the properties of materials. They group common objects on the basis of their interaction with magnets; are they magnetic or non-magnetic? They group the same objects on the basis of their interaction with water; do they dissolve or not dissolve? The lessons are designed around the learning cycle.

Beginnings (SCIIS**)
The Beginnings Unit contains a set of Physical Science Activities that develop children’s powers of informal observation, discrimination and description. Investigate the concepts of color, shape, texture, order, sound, size quantity and position.

Wood (FOSS***)
In “Wood” students compare the properties of pine, plywood, redwood particleboard and basswood. They investigate wood in water and investigate what causes samples of wood to sink. Children take wood apart by sanding, then explore the resulting sawdust and
wood shavings. They put wood together by making sandwich wood (plywood) and sawdust wood (particleboard). Students also construct wood products with nails and glue to create wood sculptures.

*INSIGHTS curriculum was created to immerse teachers and students in the true process of inquiry. Students grades PreK-12 discover new concepts and attain and retain content knowledge while learning the science skills and habits they will need in later schooling and in life.

**SCIIS is a teachers guide for teaching physical and life sciences in kindergarten and early primary grades.

***FOSS is a research-based science curriculum for grades K-8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. FOSS is also an ongoing research project dedicated to improving the learning and teaching of science.