CORE SCIENCE MODULE DESCRIPTIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN

Animals Two by Two (FOSS*)
“Animals Two by Two” introduces young students to a selection of organisms for comparison. In each activity students observe and describe the structures and behavior of an organism and then compare it to a similar organism. Guppies and goldfish, land snails and water snails, small earthworms and large night crawlers, and pillbugs and sowbugs are maintained in the classroom and investigated over time by small groups of students.

Trees and Weather (FOSS*)
In “Trees” students explore trees in the classroom and around the school site. Using real and representational materials, students adopt schoolyard trees, observe tree parts, investigate leaves, and keep scrapbooks through the seasons.

In Weather, Kindergarteners observe, name, describe and measure the many kinds of daily weather. Over the school year they experience the four seasons and describe how the weather and seasons change.

Paper (FOSS*)
“Paper” guides students in focusing on the properties of paper. Students then make paper constructions, see how paper interacts with water, and finally make some paper of their own.

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.

Fabric (FOSS*)
The “Fabric” module invites students to explore fabrics as common materials in their everyday environment. They begin with an investigation of fabric properties, followed by investigations of fabric interactions including getting cleaning dirty cloth, dying fabric, and making useful or esthetically pleasing products out of fabric.

*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.