

DOMAIN 4: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE			
SUB-DOMAIN: SCIENCE			
SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY			
GOAL 42: CHILDREN OBSERVE, DESCRIBE, AND COLLECT INFORMATION BY EXPLORING THE WORLD AROUND THEM.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
Birth through 8 Months	Shows interest in familiar people, objects, and events in the immediate environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicates personal needs (hunger, thirst). ▪ Observes physical relationships using the senses (e.g. turns head toward sounds, mouthing, grasping, and reaching for objects). ▪ Shows interest in surroundings by tracking toward and focusing on familiar faces, objects in close proximity (including plants and animals), and events. ▪ Begins to show awareness that people or objects exist after they are no longer present (beginning of object permanence). ▪ Visually tracks attachment figure and reaches for or communicates verbally to them. ▪ Ceases to cry upon hearing attachment figure's voice or seeing their face. ▪ Social responses become more selective near the end of this stage, and saved for known individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide appropriate space, time, and materials for child to explore (play on the floor with babies and get face-to-face with them; provide easy to grasp objects for them to hold). ▪ Safeguard the environment; maximizing freedom for exploration. ▪ Provide opportunities to look at "the baby in the mirror." ▪ Describe observable natural events (e.g. raindrops forming puddles or a squirrel climbing up a tree). ▪ Support and encourage child's exploration by smiling, nodding, and describing what the child is doing. ▪ Provide a changing variety of familiar and novel materials that can be used in different ways (e.g. containers for scooping, putting objects into, and for banging). ▪ Read a variety of picture books with real-life photos and drawn/painted illustrations of familiar living and nonliving things. ▪ Provide opportunities to play jointly with caregivers, other children, and objects. ▪ Respect child's explorations without predetermined outcomes or expectations.