



- *Provides a stimulating and developmentally-appropriate curriculum for young children that incorporates the basic foundations of science, such as observing, questioning, experimenting, and generalizing.*
- *Integrated curriculum areas and activities encourage the development of critical thinking skills.*

Results



- *The First Level Science program produced statistically significant and educationally meaningful gains in science knowledge as measured through pretest-posttest administration of the Woodcock-Johnson Psycho-Educational Battery Science Test.*
- *Score gains of treatment students and magnitude of effect sizes were consistently superior to those of comparison groups in small city, rural, and urban settings over a wide geographic area.*

The Program

First Level Science (KINDER-SCI) is a program designed to assist young children in exploring and discovering their surroundings through hands-on experiences with their environment. The program is a comprehensive science program for a kindergarten or first grade setting that may take a full year to implement. It emphasizes the understanding of scientific concepts through appropriate hands-on activities and provides a curriculum and management system that encourages individual developmental growth and learning of basic science concepts.

First Level Science consists of 42 topics that provide a wide variety of activities in the areas of Life Science, Water and Climate, Physical Science, Environmental Conservation, and Nutrition, presented in such a way that a child has a variety of experiences relating to a particular topic. This type of presentation utilizes multi-sensory learning methods and serves to reinforce a child's learning and understanding of concepts being taught. It features integrated curriculum areas and the development of critical thinking skills. In each activity, the children participate with an adult, such as a teacher, paraprofessional or parent-tutor, using safe, simple equipment to perform a variety of experiments, discussing what is happening as they participate in the activity, questioning and constructing explanations. It is suggested that the materials be available for children's use and independent exploration in a "center" and that follow-up activities be pursued for at least one week. A build-in management system is included, together with assessment activities, hands-on materials, and completely developed learner activities.

The program has been widely replicated in urban, suburban, and rural settings throughout the State and nationwide.

Professional Development

Training is conducted in keeping with district/school needs and is designed to give teachers a complete orientation to the program and to provide experience in its use. One full day is recommended. Paraprofessionals and program specialists who may assist with the program are encouraged to participate in the training. Follow-up/technical assistance is available in the form of site visits, conference calls, and videos

Costs & Funding Options

One curriculum and materials kit is required per classroom at a cost of \$125 per kit. Training workshops, including training materials for all participants and presenter's honorarium, cost \$500 per day. Assistance to replicators in securing funds is also provided.

Learning Standards

Mathematics, Science and Technology: 4) understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical science.

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