



# Starting with Science: Strategies for Introducing Young Children to Inquiry

*Marcia Talhelm Edson*

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**Starting with Science: Strategies for Introducing Young Children to Inquiry** Marcia Talhelm Edson  
Young children arrive at school with unrestrained curiosity and wonder about the world. A fact-based, hands-on activity approach to teaching science, however, is not enough to help them deepen their scientific thinking or discoveries. In *Starting with Science: Strategies for Introducing Young Children to Inquiry*, Marcia Talhelm Edson explores the big ideas surrounding inquiry-based science; she helps teachers thoughtfully plan for and implement a conceptual approach to teaching and learning science so students can engage in observation, questioning, predictions, collaboration, data collection, and a deeper understanding of topics important to their lives.

Through numerous examples from classroom discussions, teacher commentary, and children's work samples, *Starting with Science* provides practical suggestions and models for beginning teachers as well as those who are fine-tuning their practice. Four key questions underlie the book:

- What is inquiry-based science?
- How can pre-K, kindergarten, and primary-grade teachers incorporate inquiry-based science when faced with limited science background, insufficient time, and lack of resources?
- What roles do the children, the teacher, and the environment play in an inquiry-based science program?
- What instructional strategies are effective in implementing inquiry-based science?

In answering these questions, Edson provides a framework from which teachers can devise their own in-depth inquiry investigations based on district requirements and students' own interests. She also integrates literacy opportunities as well as explicit suggestions for effective assessment of inquiry-based science.

*Starting with Science* shows us what inquiry looks like in an early childhood classroom and introduces strategies teachers can employ to confidently and competently teach science to students in grades pre-K 2. Children will gain skills for problem solving and an attitude about learning that they will carry with them not just to the next grade but throughout their lives.

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