

Kindergarten Science Units -

High Priority

Parts identified as high priority are seen as important to teach. These units either strongly tie into the science standards at this particular grade level or build crucial vocabulary or understanding. These lessons should be taught.

Medium Priority

Parts identified as medium priority are important to teach, but parts could be modified if time is an issue. These parts of the investigation might have important pieces that connect with other parts or reading that helps to build understanding.

Low Priority

Parts identified as low priority are able to be skipped, while students won't be missing out on important standards or content. If time permits, these are the "fun" activities and build on the content being taught, but aren't crucial.

Trees and Weather

In this unit, there are a lot of activities that are important for basic exposure to science for kindergarteners. In many of the *parts*, students are asked to go outside to make observations with their senses. Although this might seem difficult, especially in the fall, getting students outside and being scientists outdoors helps to build the skills they need to be responsible scientists throughout this curriculum, K-5.

In kindergarten, the main focus for Earth Science is to use observations to describe patterns in the natural world to answer scientific questions (**K-ESS2-1**); looking at patterns and systems to see how parts work together (**K-ESS2-2**) and that plants and animals can change their environment (**K-ESS2-2**).

It is recommended to do this kit first as there are many activities that are important to be done in fall, and continued and revisited throughout the year.

Materials and Motion

In this unit, there are a lot of activities that are important for the basic exposure to science for kindergarteners. There are many activities where students explore and create, and it could get messy. Although it would be much easier to "skip" these lessons because of the mess, it is so important for students to get exposed to these lessons as they will be experimenting and creating with lessons like this throughout the K-5 curriculum. I would plan for volunteers to help with this. For some activities, being able to do this in small centers would be much easier to manage than as a whole group.

In Investigation 4, it is the only time that students will be exposed to Physical Science Standards for Forces and Interactions. In skipping this entire Investigation, students won't have exposure to this again until 3rd grade.