

Kindergarten Science

Wood and Paper

In the Wood and Paper unit, by FOSS from the Lawrence Hall of Science, students are introduced to a wide variety of woods and papers in a systematic way. They observe the properties of these materials and discover what happens when they subject them to a number of tests and interactions with other materials. Students learn that wood and paper can be recycled to create new forms of paper or wood that have new properties. They use what they know about the properties of these materials as they change wood and paper into a variety of

products. In addition, the concept of trees as natural resource is introduced, and students become aware of the need to conserve and reuse natural resources.



Trees and Gardening

The FOSS Trees unit provides students with a systematic investigation of trees over the seasons to better understand trees' place at school and in the community. Students will observe changes in weather day to day, over the year, and the impact weather has on living things. This year long study of trees and weather is supplemented in PAUSD by the Life Lab gardening unit, where kindergarteners use their senses to observe living things in a garden that they grow themselves. Children see how all living things need water and that plants and animals all have specific structures and

survival needs. Worm composting helps students connect their recycling efforts to those that occur naturally.

Animals Two by Two

This FOSS unit, like the others at kindergarten, encourages students to develop a growing curiosity and interest in the world around them. In this case students engage in close and personal interaction with some common land and water animals - fish, snails, earthworms and isopods. Appropriate classroom habitats are established, and students learn to care for the animals. In four investigations the animals are studied in pairs. Students observe and care for one animal over time, and then they are introduced to another animals similar to the first but with differences in structure and behavior.

