Grade K - Balls & Ramps (Gray)

Overview

The *Insights* Balls and Ramps module builds on the experiences children have with balls of many different kinds and in many different ways. Most children have a great deal of familiarity with balls and intuitive knowledge of how balls roll and bounce; how easy they are to throw and to catch; which are better for certain games and which are worse. This module asks children to extend their exploration of balls, how they roll and bounce, and what they do on ramps.

There are two connecting themes throughout the module:

- Properties and characteristics of balls
- Things that affect the way balls behave

The module also allows children to use a variety of science thinking and process skills. They are engaged in exploration, discovery, and problem solving. As they explore, they observe closely. Rich, descriptive language is encouraged as students work in groups to share experiences and perceptions, and clarify ideas. They organize and share their observations, discoveries, and idea through discussion, pictures, charts, and graphs. In simple ways, they predict and experiment, draw initial conclusions, connect ideas, and apply their knowledge.

Assessments

The assessment in Balls and Ramps has two purposes. The first is to give the teacher information on how well the students are understanding concepts and developing their thinking, process and group skills so that you can make daily adjustments in your teaching. The second is to help the teacher monitor each child's individual growth and development over the entire module.

A variety of assessment tools are used:

**Introductory Interview:** individual or small group interviews at the beginning of the module help the teacher know what to emphasize and how to adapt learning experiences.

**Daily Assessment Strategies:** designed to provide ongoing information that will help the teacher find out how children are making meaning of the science experiences. The daily assessments provide a focus on specific areas at specific times and enables monitoring and adapting as you go along.

**Embedded Assessment:** a performance assessment that allows the teacher to modify future lessons to include more exploration of weak areas or more discussion of concepts that are not clear.

**Final Interview:** focuses on same concepts as the Introductory Interview and helps assess growth and development of individual students and the class over the course of the module.

In addition to the structured assessment strategies provided in the module, there are other rich sources of data for exploring and understanding children's thinking and ideas. Look at their written work, both formal and informal. Listen to their discussions during science and other activities and look for connections between science experiences and their work in other areas across the curriculum. Talk with parents about connections with home and community.

The assessment strategies in this module are designed to show what the children do not yet know or only partially understand, and are intended to help the teacher make decisions about teaching and curriculum.

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