

NEW MEXICO Kindergarten *SCIENCE STANDARDS*

Strand I: Scientific Thinking and Practice

Standard I: Understand the processes of scientific investigations and use inquiry and scientific ways of observing, experimenting, predicting and validating to think critically.

K-4 Benchmark I: Use scientific methods to observe, collect, record, analyze, predict, interpret, and determine reasonableness of data.

1. Use observation and questioning skills in science inquiry (e.g., What happens when something is pushed or pulled?).
2. Ask and answer questions about surroundings and share findings with classmates.
3. Record observations and data with pictures, numbers, and/or symbols.

K-4 Benchmark II: Use scientific thinking and knowledge and communicate findings.

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| K | 1. Communicate observations and answer questions about surroundings. |
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K-4 Benchmark III: Use mathematical skills and vocabulary to analyze data, understand patterns and relationships, and communicate findings.

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| K | 1. Observe and describe the relative sizes and characteristics of objects (e.g., bigger, brighter, louder, smellier). |
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NEW MEXICO Kindergarten SCIENCE STANDARDS

Strand II: Content of Science

Standard I (Physical Science): Understand the structure and properties of matter, the characteristics of energy, and the interactions between matter and energy.

K-4 Benchmark I: Recognize that matter has different forms and properties.

1. Observe that objects are made of different types of materials (e.g., metal, plastic, cloth, wood).
2. Observe that different materials have different properties (e.g., color, odor).

K-4 Benchmark II: Know that energy is needed to get things done and that energy has different forms.

1. Observe how energy does things (e.g., batteries, the sun, wind, electricity).

K-4 Benchmark III: Identify forces and describe the motion of objects.

1. Observe things move in different ways (e.g., straight line, vibration, circular).
2. Know that the position and motion of an object (direction or speed) are changed by pushing or pulling it.

Strand II: Content of Science

Standard II (Life Science): Understand the properties, structures, and processes of living things and the interdependence of living things and their environments.

K-4 Benchmark I: Know that living things have diverse forms, structures, functions, and habitats.

1. Identify major structures of common living organisms (e.g., stems, leaves, and roots of plants; arms, wings, and legs of animals).
2. Observe that differences exist among individual living organisms (e.g., plants, animals) of the same kind.

K-4 Benchmark II: Know that living things have similarities and differences and that living things change over time.

1. Observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of living organisms (e.g., plants, animals).
2. Observe that living organisms (e.g., plants, animals) closely resemble their parents.

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K-4 Benchmark III: Know the parts of the human body and their functions.

1. Use the senses (e.g., sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch) to observe surroundings, and describe the observations.
2. Identify the parts of the human body (e.g., legs, arms, head, hands) and the functions of these parts.

Strand II: Content of Science

Standard III (Earth and Space Science): Understand the structure of Earth, the solar system, and the universe, the interconnections among them, and the processes and interactions of Earth's systems.

K-4 Benchmark I: Know the structure of the solar system and the objects in the universe.

1. Observe that there are many objects in the night sky and that some are brighter than others.
2. Describe the location and movements of objects in the sky (e.g., stars, sun, moon).

K-4 Benchmark II: Know the structure and formation of Earth and its atmosphere and the processes that shape them.

1. Observe that changes in weather occur from day to day and season to season.
2. Observe that the sun warms the land and water and they warm the air.

Strand III: Science and Society

Standard I: Understand how scientific discoveries, inventions, practices, and knowledge influence, and are influenced by, individuals and societies.

K-4 Benchmark I: Describe how science influences decisions made by individuals and societies.

1. Recognize that germs exist and may cause disease.
2. Describe how science helps provide products we use every day (e.g., gasoline for cars; electricity for lights, refrigerators, TVs; gas or electricity for heating, cooking).