



## Observation Skills Lessons

### Books

#### Observation Skills

##### Making Scientific Drawings

###### **Bird Egg Feather Nest**

By Maryjo Koch. (1992, Stewart Tabori & Chang)

Though currently out of print, this book is worth finding at the library, so that the children can examine how the author draws the details of nests, feathers, and eggs.

###### **Doing What Scientists Do: Children Learn to Investigate Their World**

By Ellen Doris. (1991, Heinemann)

This book is full of examples of classroom dialogue, and has many samples of high-quality scientific drawings by young children that you might show to your own class.

###### **Drawing with Children**

By Mona Brookes. (1996, Putnam)

A resource for teachers, this book includes lessons for building artistic skills and using drawing to support other scholastic skills. The author allows unlimited photocopying of the exercises by elementary school teachers.

###### **An Island Scrapbook: Dawn to Dusk on a Barrier Island**

By Virginia Wright-Frierson. (1998, Simon & Schuster)

Presented as a scrapbook illustrating a day spent by the artist and her young daughter exploring the beaches, marshes and woods of an island off the North Carolina coast. Watercolors and pencil drawings include depictions of shells, insects, birds, and trees.



### **A North American Rainforest Scrapbook**

By Virginia Wright-Frierson. (1999, Walker & Co.)

Like Wright-Frierson's other scrapbooks, this focuses on a particular setting. Here it's Washington State's Olympic Peninsula. Every page combines pencil drawings, carefully labeled specimens, and watercolors of animals, plants, and plant parts, such as a banana slug and a variety of evergreen cones.

### **Reading Number Scales on Thermometers**

#### **Hot and Cold (It's Science)**

By Sally Hewitt. (2000, Children's Press)

Simple text and photos illustrate the concepts of temperature.

#### **Hot and Cold (Rookie Read-About Science)**

By Allan Fowler. (1995, Children's Press)

Describes the meaning of temperature with clear text and illustrations.

### **Observing and Describing**

#### **Everybody Needs a Rock**

By Byrd Baylor; illustrated by Peter Parnall. (1985, Alladin Paperbacks)

Ten rules are creatively presented to help anyone find the rock just right for them. Because it is so poetically written, this book is ideal for reading aloud; however, independent readers will find it easy to read on their own as well.

#### **The Listening Walk**

By Paul Showers; illustrated by Alike. (1993, HarperTrophy)

A father and child take a walk together and listen to the sounds around them. A good picture book for reading aloud or independently.



## **Building to Scale**

### **How Much Is a Million?**

By David Schwartz; illustrated by Steven Kellogg. (1993, HarperTrophy)

This early-elementary book helps children conceptualize the immensity of numbers, such as a million, billion, and trillion.

### **Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There Is?**

By Robert E. Wells. (1999, Sagebrush Education Resources)

A blue whale is big; it's the biggest animal alive. But it isn't the biggest thing there is. In this informative and engaging book, children discover some big things, some bigger things, and the thing beyond measure--what can truly be called the Biggest Thing There Is.

### **What's Smaller than a Pygmy Shrew?**

By Robert E. Wells. (1995, Whitman, Albert & Company)

The book begins by comparing the size of a pygmy shrew to a toadstool, an elephant and a ladybug. Illustrations of the smallest of organisms are included along with the explanation that in order to view them a special microscope is needed. A small glossary is also included.