



Science Matters and Good Science Instruction

Promotes an Understanding of Science and Why Science Matters!

Good science literally starts in the elementary classroom. The pipeline for our next generation of scientists, engineers, and technicians begins early. Quality elementary science lessons capture children's attention when they are most open, most curious, and most naturally disposed to asking questions about the world around them.

Young children who receive a strong foundation in science during their elementary school years do better in science in later grades. Many students also make fundamental career decisions by the time they get to middle school, and engaging students in science at an early age provides them with more career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers.

The **National Science Teachers Association** website, **Science Matters** (<http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/>) invites you to:

- Read reports and policy statement from key stakeholders on **why science matters**.
- Determine if your children are receiving a quality science education by using the **Science Education Checklist**.
- Learn how parents, teachers, informal science educators, and community and business organizations can work together to foster better learning experience in K-12 science at the **Teacher and Counselor Corner**.
- Explore and share classroom and at-home hands-on science activities and experiments at the **Awesome Websites and More** section.
- Learn more about quality science education.

As a science educator in Florida, please consider joining Science Matters! As you may know the effort began as Building a Presence for Science in Florida in 2002. Visit us by selecting the teacher box at the website above and add to the list of Key Leaders and Points of Contact for Science Education in Florida. For additional information about joining, you may contact the Florida Coordinator at MWinegarner@embarqmail.com.