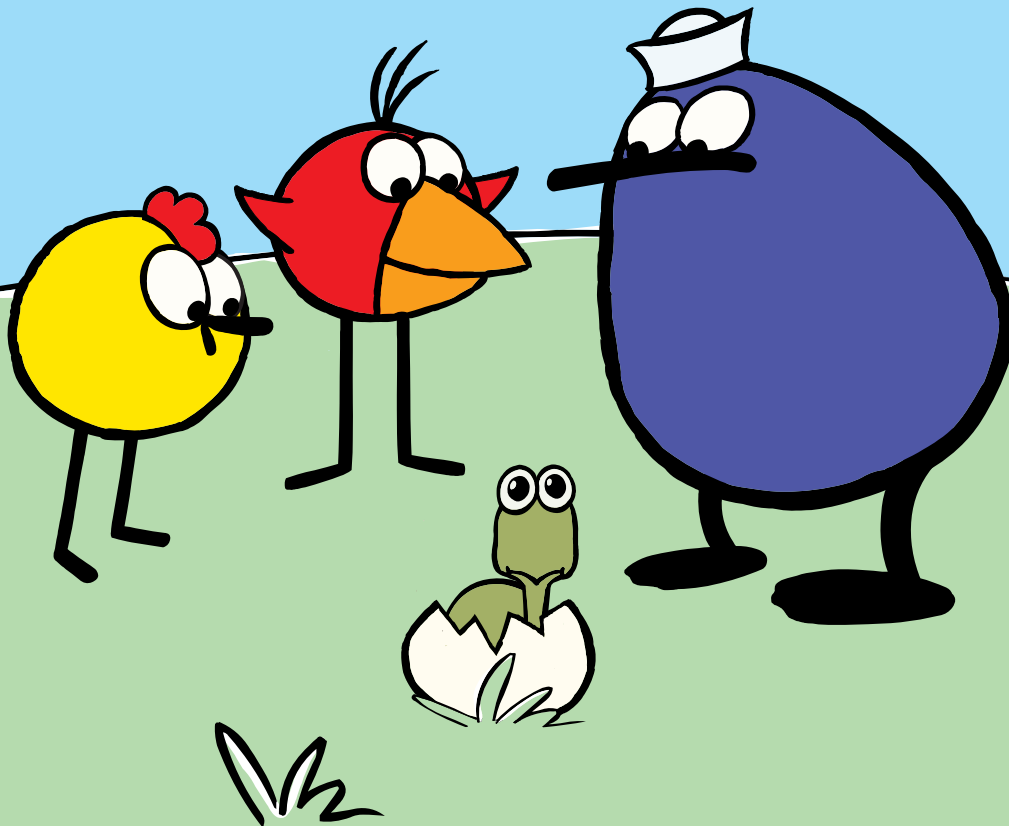
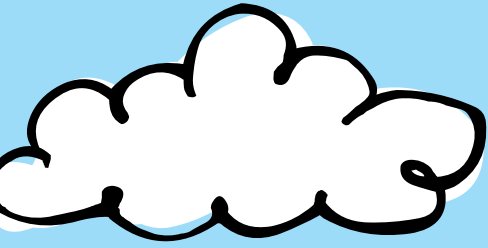


**PEEP**  
and the  
**Big Wide  
World™**



# Explorer's Guide

Helping children explore science  
in the world around them



**Explore Shadows**  
**Explore Water**  
**Explore Plants**

**Explore Color**  
**Explore Sound**  
**Explore Ramps**

# Welcome to the Peep Explorer's Guide!



Photo: Theresa Montgomery

## Explore Shadows

Like *Peep and the Big Wide World*®, the Emmy® Award–winning public television series, the *Peep Explorer's Guide* invites children to become young scientists and experience the joys of curiosity and discovery in the world around us.

Rather than overwhelm preschoolers with terminology and concepts that are beyond their comprehension, the *Peep Explorer's Guide* best serves young children by encouraging them to directly experience and discover the world. The activities nurture those scientific behaviors that come naturally to children—asking questions, pondering the unknown, testing ideas—providing them with opportunities to apply these skills in contexts that are science-based and exposing them to science concepts that they will encounter later in school.

The *Explorer's Guide* offers six thematic units—**Shadows, Water, Plants, Color, Sound, and Ramps**. Each unit offers hands-on, in-depth explorations that lead to rich science learning, as well as lots of fun for you and your preschoolers. The explorations take place in a wide variety of settings—in the classroom science area, of course, but also in the block area, at the water table, out in the playground, around the neighborhood, and at home.

Each unit weaves together **Indoor** and **Outdoor Explorations**. Both types begin with **Introduce**, a brief activity that sparks kids' interest in the topic, gets them talking about their own ideas, and engages them in **Free Exploration** of the materials. The Free Exploration section is followed by a collection of **Guided Activities** that offer more focused investigation of the topic.

The *Peep Explorer's Guide* also features:

- **Hands-on Teacher Preparation**—Roll up your sleeves and **explore** the same materials your students will be using. Review **key science concepts** and gather **materials** for each unit, including recommended **children's books**.



Photo: Theresa Montgomery

## Explore Water



Photo: Theresa Montgomery

## Explore Plants



*Peep and the Big Wide World* is produced by WGBH and 9 Story Entertainment in association with TVOntario. Major funding for *Peep and the Big Wide World* is provided by the National Science Foundation. Additional funding is provided by Northrop Grumman. This *Peep and the Big Wide World* material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0741644. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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Photo: Dina Mardelli



### Explore Color

Photo: Claudette Dawes



### Explore Sound

Photo: Jem Sutton



### Explore Ramps

- **Classroom Close-Up**—Catch a glimpse of what *Peep* science explorations look like in **actual preschool classrooms**.
- **Online *Peep* Videos**—Watch a related *Peep* **story** and **live-action video clips** from *Peep and the Big Wide World* for each *Explorer's Guide* unit, available in both **English and Spanish** on this Web site. Your children can compare their experiences and discoveries with those shown in the videos and think about what additional explorations they might like to try.
- **Family Science Letters**—Send home fun **science suggestions**, recommended **books**, and **online activities** for each exploration unit. Letters are provided in **English and Spanish**.
- **Correlation Chart**—Document how the activities in the *Peep Explorer's Guide* align with the **Head Start Child Outcomes Framework** as noted in this chart.

The *Peep Explorer's Guide* was developed and field-tested at close to 50 Head Start centers around the country. It was also evaluated by Goodman Research Group (GRG), an independent evaluation company. GRG found that after using the guide, teachers were more confident introducing and facilitating hands-on science activities and were better able to create an instructional environment supportive of science education.

Enjoy using the *Peep Explorer's Guide* to unleash your children's creativity, problem-solving, and science process skills as you actively investigate the world together.

*Peep and the Big Wide World* is a preschool science series on public television that celebrates being curious and the joy of discovery. Young viewers join Peep, a newly hatched chick, and his friends Chirp and Quack on their wide-eyed adventures—from discovering shadows to investigating seeds to constructing ramps and tracks for rolling balls. Each half-hour show contains two animated stories highlighting specific science concepts, plus two short videos of real children exploring science in everyday places.



# PEEP and the Big Wide World™

Hatching new scientists every day!

Visit [peepandthebigwideworld.org](http://peepandthebigwideworld.org) for hands-on science and math activities developed by a science educator and former preschool teacher.

# Contents

## Introduction

Welcome to the *Peep Explorer's Guide*. Includes a list of contents and related online videos.

## Preschool Science: The *Peep* Approach

Learn about the *Peep* approach to preschool science. Learn about related resources.

## Explore Shadows

**Outdoors**, make shadows in the sunlight. **Indoors**, explore shadows with lamps and flashlights.

## Explore Water

**Indoors**, use the water table to discover how water moves and the ways objects behave in water. **Outdoors**, explore puddles, raindrops, and waterways.

## Explore Plants

**Indoors**, plant seeds and bulbs and track their growth. **Outdoors**, observe the trees and plants growing nearby.

## Explore Color

**Indoors**, mix and sort colors. **Outdoors**, observe colors in nature and explore colored light.

## Explore Sound

**Indoors**, explore sounds you can make with your body and voice, then shake, tap, and pluck various objects. **Outdoors**, take a Listening Walk and imitate the sounds you hear.

## Explore Ramps

**Outdoors**, explore slides and hills and discover the best surfaces for rolling. **Indoors**, experiment with ramps and explore the movement of objects that slide and roll.

## Family Science Letters

Share simple ideas for science play at home, along with recommended books and online activities. Letters are provided in both English and Spanish.

## Correlation Chart: Head Start Child Outcomes Framework

Note how the activities and approaches in the *Peep Explorer's Guide* align with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework.





# Peep Online Videos

Each unit of the *Explorer's Guide* features a related animated *Peep* story (8:45 minutes), as well as Kids Explore video clips of real kids exploring the concepts (1:30 minutes). These videos are available for viewing on this Web site in both English and Spanish. ([peepandthebigwideworld.org/resources/explorers-guide.html](http://peepandthebigwideworld.org/resources/explorers-guide.html))

## Explore Shadows

**Peep Story:** *Night Light*

**Kids Explore:** *Making Shadows, Watching Shadows Change, Playing with Shadow Puppets*

## Explore Water

**Peep Story:** *The Fish Museum*

**Kids Explore:** *Making Rivers, Watching Water Move Things, Building a Dam, Painting with Water, Making Things Float and Sink, Making Boats*

## Explore Plants

**Peep Story:** *Peep Plants a Seed*

**Kids Explore:** *Measuring Heights, Experimenting with Seeds, Exploring Small Places, Collecting and Sorting*

## Explore Color

**Peep Story:** *A Peep of a Different Color*

**Kids Explore:** *Mixing Paint*

## Explore Sound

**Peep Story:** *Sounds Like...*

**Kids Explore:** *Listening for Sounds, Tracking Down Sounds*

## Explore Ramps

**Peep Story:** *The Whatchamacallit*

**Kids Explore:** *Building Ramps, Rolling Down a Hill*

