

The PrimaryConnections 5Es teaching and learning model

The PrimaryConnections 5Es lies at the heart of our program and is an inquiry-based teaching and learning model. Students use their prior knowledge and literacies to develop explanations for their hands-on experiences of scientific phenomena. Students have opportunities to represent and re-represent their developing understanding. They are engaged actively in the learning process. Students develop investigation skills and an understanding of the nature of science.

Teaching and learning progresses through five phases:





Engage



Each unit begins with a lesson that mentally engages students with an activity or question. It captures their interest, provides an opportunity for them to express what they know about the concept or skill being developed, and helps them to make connections between what they know and the new ideas.

Explore



Students carry out hands-on activities in which they can explore the concept or skill. They grapple with the problem or phenomenon and describe it in their own words. This phase allows students to acquire a common set of experiences that they can use to help each other make sense of the new concept or skill.



Explain



Once students have explored the concept or skill, the teacher provides the concepts and terms used by the students to develop explanations for the phenomenon they have experienced. The significant aspect of this phase is that explanation follows experience.

Elaborate



This phase provides opportunities for students to apply what they have learned to new situations and so they develop a deeper understanding of the concept or greater use of the skill. It is important for students to discuss and compare their ideas with each other during this phase.



Evaluate



The final phase provides an opportunity for students to review and reflect on their own learning and their new understanding and skills. It is also when students provide evidence for changes to their understanding, beliefs and skills.