LEARNING WITH...

Easi-Scope Microscopes 15 Activity ideas

Easi-Scope Microscope IT01121

Easi-Scope Wireless EL00471

Easi-Scope 3 SC10202

Easi-Scope Rainbow IT01120

Whichever Easi-Scope you have, it is fascinating to take the time to observe everyday items and see the incredible detail that is not usually visible to the naked eye. Talk about what you can see and develop thinking and understanding.

Here are a few ideas to get you started!

1. Hair

Look at strands of hair through the Easi-Scope. Does the colour of hair make any difference to what you see? Look at hair from different people. Is it all the same? How does it differ? Compare straight hair and curly hair.

2. Art up close

Use the Easi-Scope to look at a section of a piece of artwork in detail. Use a viewing square to focus on a small section. Children should take snapshots of the areas they find most interesting. The images may be linked to a topic, works of art or created by the class themselves. This is a very different way to appreciate art. Can they describe their chosen section using challenging descriptive language?

3. Collect and look

Ask children to collect interesting objects perhaps from a school trip or maybe relating to a class topic. Allow them time to consider the colour, texture and smell of the items and then investigate closely using the Easi-Scope. Take pictures of each object and display alongside the original item with supportive work such as word lists, descriptive writing etc.

4. Investigating fabrics

Prepare a range of fabric samples – e.g., cotton, wool, silk, polyester etc. How do natural fibres compare to manufactured fibres? How do they differ and how are they the same? Can children use their findings to recognise the origin of other fibres?

Explore under the Easi-Scope and capture images of different patterns of weave. Children can then choose the pattern they like most and manipulate it using a graphics program on a computer. Once they are happy with it, they can create a repeating tiled pattern which can be printed and used as wrapping paper.

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Famous naturalists

The importance of detailed observations in science cannot be overestimated. Look at the work of famous naturalists such as Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel and their drawings of organisms. They were used by scientists to evidence evolution and classify the organisms when they were first discovered.

5. Body parts
Use the Easi-Scope to take close-up pictures of parts of the body, hair, palm of the hand, nails, inside the ear, teeth etc. Print these images and ask the children to place them in the correct positions on a body map, helping them to identify, name and label parts of the body. Extend this by learning the names in a different language.

6. Investigate food
Use Easi-Scope to explore different types of food. Look at fruit or vegetables. Examine the skin or peel and then look at a sliced piece. What patterns or shapes can children find? Can they recognise different fruit or vegetables from captured images? Captured images could be turned into artwork by recolouring or creating repeating patterns.

7. A feely good guess!
Provide a feely bag of familiar objects and choose children to pick one item at a time from the bag - try to keep the whole object hidden from the rest of the group. Give the Easi-Scope to one child and ask them to hold it very close to the object. Can the group guess what the object is straight away? Or do they need the child with the Easi-Scope to move a little?

8. Leaf investigation
Collect leaves from trees at different stages of decomposition. Look at them using Easi-Scope. Can children spot how the changes gradually occur?

9. Coins
Look closely at different coins. Look at the edges, the lettering and the markings in the metal. Can children find the tiny text that can't be seen with the naked eye? Can they think why it is there? (NB - Newer coins and notes have more anti-forgery measures). Both old and new coins should be available to explore. What are the differences?

There are many interesting facts to discover, for example :-
2p – Shows the Prince of Wales feathers on a crown. Notice how detailed they are. There are three ostrich feathers. Find the words on the ribbon. What does ICH DIEN mean? (It is German and means, 'I SERVE')

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Take photos of close-up details of a few different objects to use for a quiz, then get children to explore those objects for themselves, picking out their own details of interest.

10. Paper Money
Collect examples of different notes, from the UK and other countries. What are they made from? There is much to explore on both sides of the notes. For example - look closely at a £10 note and find Jane Austen. Find her birth year and death. What else can you see?
Search for the small details that may not be obvious to the naked eye. Why is so much detail included?

11. Screen technology
Carefully place an Easi-Scope up to a computer screen. Adjust the focus to find the red, green and blue pixels the screen is made from. Changing how these pixels are lit changes the image the user sees. Can children write a rule for this? Give them grid lined paper and ask them to create their own image from pixels. They should use a square area 8x8 and colour in squares to create a simple image.

12. Ice cubes
Observe crystals in a cube of ice. What patterns do you notice? Are all ice cubes the same?

13. Scavenger Hunt
Collect found objects.

Observe closely with the Easi-Scope and draw or take images of what found.

14. Pond water
Dip in a pond for water samples and then use the Easi-Scope to observe the water. (It is useful to take a sample that includes a little sludge or debris, rather than just water).

What do you see? Record.

15. Salt and sugar
Use the Easi-Scope to observe salt and sugar crystals. What are the differences? Capture images and use to inspire descriptive language and/or works of art. Link to a science experiment to make your own sugar crystals.