

# Book reviews

## EXPLORING SCIENCE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

**Authors:** Terry Russell and Linda McGuigan

**Publisher:** Sage Publications Ltd

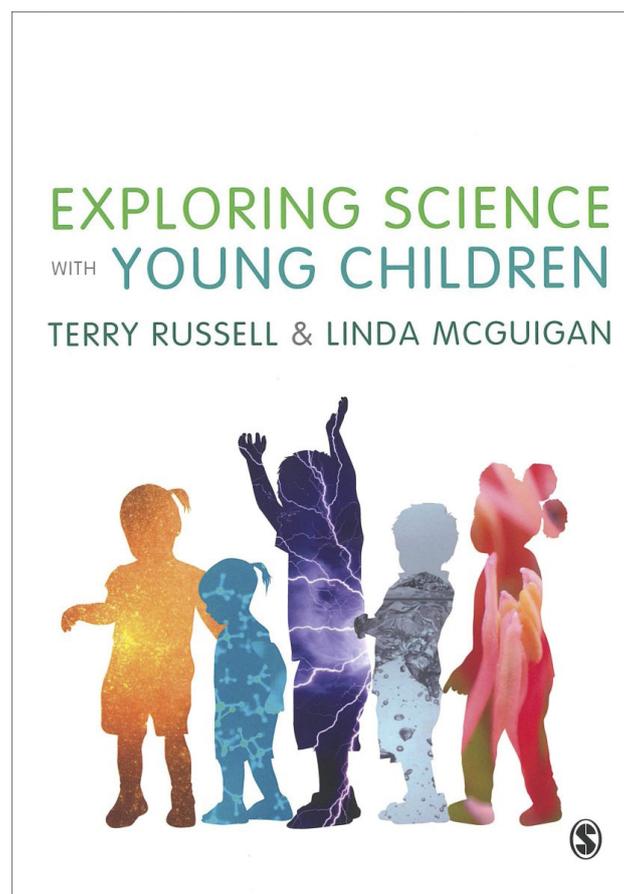
**ISBN:** 9781473912519

**Reviewer:** Alex Parrington,  
Cornish College, Victoria

*Exploring Science with Young Children* by Terry Russell and Linda McGuigan is a text that could prove itself to be very useful to anyone concerned with the exploration and development of the science understandings of young people (age range: 3–7 years). Readers could include early years teachers, science coordinators, student or trainee teachers, teacher assistants and/or parents.

The book is written from a developmental perspective and describes techniques for encouraging children to find out and develop their own ideas, inquire scientifically and use evidence to support their growing understanding. It focuses on practical and naturally occurring experiences in everyday contexts. Concrete examples, including photographs, are a useful addition and help provide clarity for the reader.

The recurring features of each chapter, including a chapter overview and chapter summary, provide a concise introduction and recap of each section. They form part of a valuable framework that assists in making the information in the text accessible. Opportunities for reflection by the reader are provided through both the 'pause for thought' and 'reflection' boxes scattered throughout the text. The 'background science' boxes also provide an illustrative scaffold for readers to develop and support science understandings and confidence, should it be required.



The text itself encourages the development of creativity, imagination and curiosity as a base for developing science understanding, including the skills of reflection and the sharing of ideas through collaboration. The information provided, combines current theory with practice and is based on up-to-date research and the authors' extensive background knowledge and experience.

This text is readily available in Australia and New Zealand, either through a local bookshop or from all major online bookstores. It would be an excellent addition to the library of anyone concerned with the science education of children in the early years.