



Science National Profiles for Questacon's Mini Q exhibition



Brief description of Mini Q zones:

Water Play—a place to make water flow and work as a team. This area contains stepped water tanks, an Archimedes screw, a pulley system of containers and separate, individual containers. Children can experiment with the properties of water and learn about principles of conservation (water volume) and the permanence of objects.

Baby Space—a place to crawl about and explore. This area allows babies to move around, watch other babies and be at eye level with adults to study facial expressions. Baby Space has not been listed in the suggested outcomes below, but children aged up to 12 months benefit from this area.

Role Play—a place to shop, work and play. A child-scale street scene with Building Construction Zone, Service Station, Animal Hospital and Bakery that allows children to 'play shop'. Children may serve items, count orders, plan what to build, cooperate with other children, etc. Many items are labelled and adults are encouraged to take part in the role play.

Sensory Space—a place to see, hear and feel amazing things. Children can feel different textures, hear unusual sounds and explore special zones with optic fibres and ultraviolet lights.

Active Play—a place to balance, navigate and roll around. Balance and crawl spaces encourage children to develop gross and fine motor skills, as well as strengthen their right and left hand body coordination.

Quiet Space—a place to rest peacefully after a hard day's play. Adults are encouraged to read library stories to children in this space.

Space Lab—a place to pretend, predict and explore. Children pretend to be astronauts or space scientists and investigate various workstations that use magnifying glasses, polarised light filters, fluid tubes and measuring scales.

Some zones in Mini Q better satisfy outcomes for certain Key Learning Areas.

For example, Quiet Space, and Role Play achieve outcomes in English and The Arts KLAs.

Health and physical education KLA outcomes are well catered for in Active Play.

Literacy and numeracy is encouraged in various Mini Q zones, through labelling of items, encouraging children to count or group items and providing resources for carers to read to children.

Technology KLA outcomes are achieved when children engage in Role Play (Building Construction Zone), Sensory Space and Water Play.



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The following Science KLA outcomes demonstrate how certain Mini Q zones can be used to satisfy various outcomes:

Strand	Strand organisers	Towards Level 1 Outcomes Students:	Level 1 Outcomes Students:	Mini Q zone where outcomes can be achieved
Earth and Beyond	The changing Earth	Classify features into simple categories (big, small, rough, smooth). Use language of description (big, little, cold, hot).		Space Lab
Energy and Change	Transferring energy	Talk about a sequence of connected events (turning on a light switch, riding a bike, eating food).	1.5 Describes interactions and sequences of connected events.	Sensory Space Water Play
	Energy sources and receivers	Engage in activities involving varied energy sources. Use equipment with varied energy sources.	1.6 Identifies sources of energy in daily life	Sensory Space Water Play
Life and Living	Living together	Identify places and food types of familiar living things (dog, cat)	1.7 Identifies personal needs and the needs of other familiar living things	Role Play (Animal Hospital)
Natural and Processed Materials	Materials and their uses	Demonstrate familiarity with materials in familiar environments. Select the appropriate materials for a task in the immediate environment.	1.10 Identifies materials and their uses.	All areas of Mini Q
	Structure and properties	Demonstrate an awareness of a wide range of textures using all senses. Associate words with meaning (rough, soft, hard, hot sticky). Describe matter in their own terminology.	1.11 Identifies properties of materials discernible by the senses.	Sensory Space Space Lab Water Play



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Strand	Strand organisers	Towards Level 1 Outcomes Students:	Level 1 Outcomes Students:	Mini Q zone where outcomes can be achieved
	Reactions and change	Use their senses to recognize changes in the immediate environment. Recognise solids and liquids. Demonstrate cause and effect (turn tap and water comes out).	1.12 Identifies changes in materials using the senses.	Sensory Space Space Lab Water Play
Working Scientifically	Planning investigations	Communicate about a familiar experience.	1.13 Lists, with support, what is known about familiar situations and suggests questions for investigation.	All areas of Mini Q
	Conducting investigations	Demonstrate understanding of positional concepts.	1.14 Carries out instructions and procedures involving a small number of steps.	All areas of Mini Q
	Evaluating findings	Use language associated with classroom/everyday life.	1.15 Talks about observations and suggests possible interpretations.	All areas of Mini Q
	Using science	Handle a variety of everyday objects to become familiar with their attributes. Participate in activities that help them develop an awareness of science in their daily life. Attend to scientific aspects of their natural environment using their senses.	1.17 Identifies ways science is used in daily life.	All areas of Mini Q