Handout 8
Science Vocabulary

Children need science vocabulary instruction that:

- Uses a variety of science words that are taught directly within natural learning situations
- Provides multiple exposures to specific science words with scheduled review & practice
- Is used consistently in ways meaningful to the child
- Utilizes richly structured categories (grouping of like things)

Physical Science Words Might Include:

- push
- pull
- direction
- speed
- shape
- size
- mass
- gravity
- force
- motion
- fast/faster
- slow/slower
- movement
- solid/liquid/gas
- matter
- magnets
- energy
- temperature
- reaction
- friction
- simple machines
- lever
- pulley
- ramp
Handout 8
Science Vocabulary (continued)

Life Science Words Might Include:

living things  basic needs  life cycle  sustain
habitats  hibernate  survive  food  air
water  producer  consumer  decomposer
food chain  organisms  metamorphosis  plants
animals  space  sunlight  once living  dead
extinct  ecosystem  nonliving things  soil
seeds  roots  leaves  terrarium

Earth Science Words Might Include:

earth  planet  star  moon  atmosphere
magnetic  wind  air  clouds  rocks  sand
soil  water  oxygen  minerals  materials
gravel  clay  particle  sieve  sphere
natural resources  fossils  solar energy
pollution  storm  earthquake  tornado