

## **The Essence of Inquiry**

*Science is, by its nature, inquiry-based. Inquiry is a method that utilizes the rational powers and scientific thinking processes to explore and learn about some aspect of the real world. In order to achieve this, facilitators must create a learning environment steeped with experiences that allow students to use their rational powers in a coordinated way. Such experiences will, consequently, develop children's logical thinking abilities.*

**Inquiry includes:**

- *Active questioning and investigating;*
- *Acquiring new knowledge; and*
- *Observing and manipulating (mentally or physically) objects, phenomena, and/or nature.*

*The critical element to inquiry is that the child seeks answers to questions and is not given answers. True learning comes from the search for the answer and not the answer—this is the essence of inquiry.*

Marek and Cavallo (1997)