

## FOSS at Home and in the Community: Grades 3-5



**Our school uses FOSS Science as part of our curriculum.** This is a standards-aligned, research-based science program used with great success across the country. FOSS is developed at the University of California, at Berkeley with over 25 years experience in how K-8 students learn best.

At the heart of this [award-winning program](#), students do science and engineering regularly, they record their observations in [science notebooks](#), integrate technology resources appropriately to support and enhance the hands-on explorations, and engage in assessments that help students understand what they know and what they need support with.

Students investigate earth, life, and physical science; engineering is integrated throughout. Students use their [science notebooks](#) as a tool to record their thinking, [visit the schoolyard](#) regularly to examine how the concepts learned in the classroom apply to the out-of-doors, use science and engineering as a way to support their [language development](#), and read articles after the hands-on exploration to enhance and enrich the experience.

If you would like an overview of what your child is likely to study at their grade level and in future grade levels, click here: [FOSS modules](#). Once there, if you click on any title you will see a brief overview of that module.

[FOSSweb.com](#) is used regularly in the classroom, but you may like access to some of the resources to better support your child at home. Log in using your child's account.

Username: \_\_\_\_\_ Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Here you will find some information that may be nice to extend into your home. You will find:

- Interactive online activities and videos that will help reinforce the classroom lessons
- A Science and Engineering Career Database, with bios about diverse scientists and engineers of all genders
- Recommended fiction and nonfiction books, suggested by teachers from across the country

Most of the resources on FOSSweb are for teachers and students, but you may find it interesting to watch a [video about the program](#) here. You may also have questions answered on the [Information for Families and Community Members](#) 3-5 section on FOSSweb.

Each FOSS module will take approximately 10-12 weeks to study. We teach approximately 2-3 active sessions weekly, and have additional sessions for assessment or literacy integration. Students take I-Checks at the end of each investigation to

demonstrate what they know. We regularly review science notebooks to track student knowledge.

In addition to learning the facts of science and engineering, FOSS helps students learn how to think, to problem solve, to work together as a team, to be responsible for one's own learning, and most importantly to get excited about school and learning. Science is often the subject that gets even the most reluctant learners excited about school, and FOSS is the best at this. Keep an eye out for the "Letter to Family" which will give you an overview of each FOSS module.