

INV. 4 ACTIVITY—LIGHT AND MIRRORS

Today we will find and explore with a mirror and a flashlight. Any mirror will do. If the only mirror in the home is in the bathroom, you can use that. If you have a small mirror, that will do too. Safety Note: Make sure the small mirror is safe for a small child to use.

Investigation

1. Explore with the mirror—look in it, what do you see behind you? If you have some words on a piece of paper behind you, can you read them?
2. Now, hold the light of a flashlight up to the mirror.
3. **Focus question: How can we redirect a light beam?**
4. Explore the focus question, use the mirror to redirect the light beam.
Can you redirect the light beam onto the ceiling without pointing the flashlight toward the ceiling?
How about directing the light beam behind you?
5. Describe to your child that the mirror reflects the light beam. Reflect means to bounce off. The effect of shining a light on a mirror is that the light bounces back and travels in another direction. The mirror, and you shining a light at the mirror, caused this to happen.
6. Answer the focus question.
You might want to use this sentence frame, “I used a _____ to _____ a light beam. The indoor light source was a _____.”
Draw a picture showing how you used the mirror to redirect light.

Follow up activities

- Look in a mirror, look closely at your eye, and draw a close up of your eye.
- Explore a little more with light.
What are the colors in your bedroom? Your blanket? Your pillow?
What do the colors in the day time look like?
If it is completely dark in your room at night, what can you observe the color of those items?