

EYFS Science – Understanding the World



Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children’s personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children’s vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

3- & 4-year-olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use all their senses in handson exploration of natural materials.• Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.• Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.• Plant seeds and care for growing plants.• Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.• Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things• Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.• Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the natural world around them.• Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.• Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.• Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.
Early Learning Goals The Natural World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants;• Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;• Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.