

‘Science’

What does it look like in EYFS?

In planning and guiding what children learn, practitioners must reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice appropriately. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’
- active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things. In addition, the Prime Areas of Learning (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development) underpin and are an integral part of the children’s learning in all areas.

Understanding of the World (Statutory)

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.

Birth to 3 -

Explore materials with different properties.
Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.
Explore and respond to different
Repeat actions that have an effect.

3-4 year olds -

Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. • Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. • Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. • Explore how things work. • 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 -

Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change in nature • Knows about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things
Makes observations of animals and plants and explains why some things occur, and talks about changes

ELG -

Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

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