Science: Skills Progression



Nursery	Reception
AT ALL TIMES TEACHERS AND PRACTIONERS WILL MODEL LANGUAGE STRUCTURES	EXPECTING CHILDREN TO USE THESE WITH INCREASING INDEPENDENCE AS A
FORERUNNER TO LANGUAGE SKILLS USED IN SCIENCE IN THE NATIONAL CURRICUL	UM.
Understand 'why' questions	Use new vocabulary through the day
Talk about what they see, using a wide [science] vocabulary	Ask questions to find out more
Hands on exploration using senses.	Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences
Explore collections of materials and identify similar and different properties	Connect one idea or action to another
Explores and talks about forces (push and pull)	Describe events in some detail
Changing seasons – understand that the weather changes, and in different places you find different weather.	Use talk to work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and to explain how things work and why they might happen
Understand the difference between plants and animals.	Engage in non-fiction books
Plant seeds and care for growing plants with support. Keeperland States of a best and a	Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new [science] knowledge and vocabulary
Know the life cycle of a butterfly.	Describe what they see, hear and feel
	Talks about differences between materials and the changes they notice.
	Explores non-contact forces (gravity and magnetism)
	Explores and talks about changing states (freezing/ melting, floating/ sinking)
	Names seasons and begin to understand the effect of seasons on the natural world, discussing when and how things grow.
	Can talk about different life cycles
	Can name and explore their 5 senses, explaining in simple terms what their 5 senses are.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6		
Over the course of an academic year, children will carry out several investigations which involve different types of enquiry approaches:								
	observation over time							
	identifying and classifying							
	 pattern seeking 	, 3						
	• research							
	 comparative and f 	air testing						
	Asking a question:	Asking a question:	Asking a question:	Asking a question:	Asking a question:	Asking a question:		
	Teachers encourage children	Teachers encourage children	With help children can ask a	Children can ask a scientific	Children can ask their own	Children can ask their own		
	to ask questions (teachers	to ask questions (teachers	scientific question.	question.	scientific questions with help	scientific questions.		
	model how to ask a question).	model how to ask a question)	·		·	·		
		 – children use sentence stems 	Collecting data – what is	Collecting data – what is	Collecting data (variables) –	Collecting data (variables) –		
	Collecting data – what is	& develop in independence	being measured or	being measured or	what might affect what is	what might affect what is		
	being measured or		observed?:	observed?:	being measured or	being measured or		
	observed?:	Collecting data – what is	With help, children can talk	Children can talk about what	observed?:	observed?:		
	With help, children can talk about what they are going to	being measured or observed?:	about what they are going to observe and/or measure.	they are going to observe and/or measure.	With help, children can decide	Children can decide which		
	look/listen for.	With help, children can talk	observe and/or measure.	and/or measure.	which variable to changes and which variables to keep the	variable to changes and which variables to keep the same		
	looky listell for.	about what they are going to	Children use sentence stem:	Children use sentence stem:	same beginning to use the	using the terms dependent		
	Children use sentence stem:	measure.	With help we can talk about	We can talk about what we	terms dependent and	and independent variable		
ΪΥ	With help we can talk about		what we are going to	are going to	independent variable.	·		
Scientific Enquiry	what we are going to	Children use sentence stem:	observe/measure.	observe/measure.		Asking a question that could		
E E	look/listen for.	With help we can talk about			Asking a question that could	lead to a fair test:		
ţį		what we are going to	Collecting data (variables) –	Collecting data (variables) –	lead to a fair test:	Children use sentence stem:		
ien	Sort objects to a given criteria.	measure.	what might affect what is	what might affect what is	Children use sentence stem:	What do you think will happen		
Š	A alice a supertion that sould	A alicina a musakian khak asuld	being measured or observed?:	being measured or	What do you think will happen	to if we change and keep		
	Asking a question that could lead to a fair test:	Asking a question that could lead to a fair test:	Understands what a simple	observed?: Understands what a simple	to if we change and keep and the same? (using	and the same? (using appropriate units within the		
	Children use sentence stem:	Children use sentence stem:	fair test is, and with support	fair test is, and helps to set it	appropriate units within the	sentence).		
	What do you think will happen	What do you think will happen	helps to set it up. With help,	up. Talks about/lists variables	sentence).	sentencey.		
	to?	toif we change?	talks about/lists variables.					
			,	Asking a question that could				
			Asking a question that could	lead to a fair test:				
			lead to a fair test:	Children use sentence stem:				
			Children use sentence stem	What do you think will happen				
			with support: What do you	toif we changeand				
			think will happen toif we	keepandthe same?				
			changeand keepandthe same?					
			reepanuthe same?					

		_			_	
	Planning:	Planning:	Predict what might happen:	Predict what might happen:	Decide which type of enquiry	Decide which type of enquiry
	Teacher model (aloud) what	Teacher model (aloud) what	Children use sentence stem	Children use sentence stem: I	is needed:	is needed:
	equipment/information is	equipment/information is	with support: I think	think might happen	Children are beginning to	Children make their own
	needed to find things out;	needed to find things out;	might happen because	because (based on	make their own decisions	decisions about the type of
	children to practise and do the	children to practise and do the	(based on everyday	everyday knowledge).	about the type of enquiry to	enquiry to carry out.
	same with support.	same with greater	knowledge).		carry out.	
		independence.	Planning:	Planning:		Collecting data – what is
	Gathering Evidence:		With help, decides what	Decides what equipment will	Collecting data – what is	being measured or
	Use senses and simple	Gathering Evidence:	equipment will be needed for	be needed for an enquiry.	being measured or	observed?:
	equipment to describe what is	Uses different types of	an enquiry.		observed?:	Children can decide the most
	around them.	scientific enquiry		Learns how to use equipment	With help, children can decide	appropriate observations
		~ children measure with adult	Learns how to use equipment	and take measurements (eg	the most appropriate	and/or measurements to take
	Tell others what things are like	support	and take measurements (eg	thermometers, force meters,	observations and/or	and how long to take them
	using their senses		thermometers, force meters,	data loggers).	measurements to take and	for.
			data loggers).		how long to take them for.	
_				Gathering Evidence:		Predict what might happen:
뎙			Gathering Evidence:	Collects data from	Predict what might happen:	Children use sentence stem: I
iga			With help, collects data from	observations and measures	Children use sentence stem: I	think might happen
est			observations and measures	accurate standard units using	think might happen	because (based on
_≧			accurate standard units using	a range of equipment	because (based on	scientific knowledge).
<u> </u>			a range of equipment	(including dataloggers)	scientific knowledge).	
Practical Investigation			(including dataloggers)			Planning:
Pra					Planning:	Children decide the most
-					With help, children decide the	appropriate equipment to use
					most appropriate equipment	to make observations or
					to use to make observations	measure.
					or measure.	
						Gathering Evidence:
					Gathering Evidence:	Children make accurate and
					With help, children make	precise measurements and
					accurate and precise	begin to understand the need
					measurements and begin to	to repeat them.
					understand the need to	
					repeat them.	Children use sentence stems:
						This is what I have
					Children use sentence stems:	observed; This is what I
					This is what I have	have measured
					observed; This is what I	
					have measured	

	Record Findings:	Sorting & Classifying:	Sorting & Classifying:	Sorting & Classifying:	Sorting & Classifying:	Sorting & Classifying:
	Begins to record data in	Compare things and decide	With support, discuss ideas	Discusses ideas for grouping,	With help, children use	Children use classification
	simple templates provided.	how they can be sorted and	for grouping, sorting &	sorting & classifying.	classification keys and	keys and databases to
		grouped (with help leading to	classifying.		databases to describe, identify	describe, identify and classify
	Responds to prompts to talk	independence).		Use simple keys to classify	and classify living things and	living things and materials.
	about what they have found		Use simple keys to classify	(objects, living things and	materials.	
	out	Record Findings:	(objects, living things and	materials).		Record Findings:
	~ Children can talk about has	Use scientific vocab to	materials).		Record Findings:	Children choose the best way
	been found at and use tables	communicate findings.		Record Findings:	With help, children choose the	to record data including
	etc from the teacher to help		Record Findings:	Talks about and makes	best way to record data	scientific diagrams & labels,
	them record what they find	Responds to prompts to talk	With help, talks about and	decisions about how to record	including scientific diagrams &	classification keys, tables, line
	out.	about what they have found	makes decisions about how to	(using simple scientific	labels, classification keys,	graphs and bar charts.
		out	record (using simple scientific	language).	tables, line graphs and bar	
		~ Children can talk about has	language).		charts.	Children use their results to
ing		been found at and use tables		Shows what has been found		explain relationships between
cat		etc from the teacher to record	With help, shows what has	out using notes, simple tables,	With help, children use their	variables (er statements).
Communicating		what they find out.	been found out using notes,	labelled diagrams, drawing,	results to explain relationships	
Ē			simple tables, labelled	bar charts etc(using standard	between variables (er	Children present their findings
Ö			diagrams, drawing, bar charts	units).	statements).	to an audience using displays,
"			etc(using standard units).			written text, ppt etc.
				Report findings through oral &	With help, children present	
			Begins to report findings	written explanations, displays	their findings to an audience	Children use simple models to
			through oral & written	or presentations of results.	using displays, written text,	describe scientific ideas.
			explanations, displays or		ppt etc.	
			presentations of results.			Children use sentence stem:
					With help, children use simple	This is a model of and it
					models to describe scientific	shows us
					ideas.	
					Children use sentence stem:	
					This is a model of and it	
					shows us	
	I	I .	1	I .	I	I .

	Notice patterns &	Notice Patterns and	Notice Patterns and	Notice Patterns and	Notice Patterns and	Notice Patterns and
	Relationships:	Relationships:	Relationships:	Relationships:	Relationships:	Relationships:
	Says what has changed when	Says whether what happened	With help, look for	Looks for straightforward	With help, children look for	Children look for different
		1	• •	patterns, similarities &	different causal relationships	causal relationships in their
	observing objects, living things	was what was expected;	straightforward patterns,	' '	-	'
	or events.	notices similarities,	similarities & differences in	differences in data in order to	in their data.	data.
		differences and patterns.	data in order to draw simple	draw simple conclusions.		
	Children use sentence stem –		conclusions.		Children use sentence stem:	Children use sentence stem:
	We noticedhappen/ change	Children use sentence stem:		Children use sentence stems:	From the data in my	From the data in my
	when	We thought this might	Children use sentence stems:	~From the data, this is the	graph/table I found out the	graph/table I found out the
		happenand the surprise	~From the data, this is the	change/ pattern we noticed.	relationship between X and Y	relationship between X and Y
		was	change/ pattern we noticed.	~These are the	(begins to use 'er' statements	(Use 'er' statements from
9			~These are the similarities/	similarities/differences	from Y4 to link relationships).	Y4&5 to link relationships)
<u>e</u>			differences between	between		
Š			~[teach 'er' statements for	~[teach 'er' statements] The	Suggest Improvements:	Suggest Improvements:
8			children to use with help] The	er the , the er	With help, children begin to	Children begin to use results
ij			er the , the	the	use results to identify when	to identify when further
pre			er the		further tests/observations	tests/observations might be
Interpreting Evidence				Suggest Improvements:	might be needed.	needed.
≟			Suggest Improvements:	Begins to identify new		
			With support, begins to	questions arising from the	With help, children use	Children use sentence stem: if
			identify new questions arising	data; makes predictions for	sentence stem: if I did this	I did this again, I would do
			from the data; with help	new values within or beyond	again, I would do	because
			makes predictions for new	the data collected.	because	
			values within or beyond the			
			data collected.	Children use sentence stems:		
				~ If I did this again, I would		
			Children use sentence stems:	~ If I did I think my data		
			~ If I did this again, I would	would		
			~ If I did I think my data	change because		
			would change because	onange because i i i		
			would change because		Recognises 'spooky' results:	Recognises 'spooky' results:
					With help, children begin to	Children begin to identify
					identify evidence that	evidence that refutes and or
					,	
					refutes/supports ideas.	supports ideas.
ies					Children use sentence stem: I	Children use sentence stem: I
nal						didn't think would
ē					didn't think would	
₹					happen. This is a spooky	happen. This is a spooky
) ue					result. It might have happened	result. It might have happened
rs ?					because	because
Errors and Anomalies						
ū						

	Identify and name a variety of	Observe and describe how	Identify and describe the			
	common wild and garden	seeds and bulbs grow into	functions of different parts of			
	plants, including deciduous	mature plants.	flowering plants: roots,			
	and evergreen trees.		stem/trunk, leaves and			
		Find out and describe how	flowers.			
	Identify and describe the basic	plants need water, light and a				
	structure of a variety of	suitable temperature to grow	Explore the requirements of			
	common flowering plants,	and stay healthy.	plants for life and growth (air,			
	including trees.	, ,	light, water, nutrients from			
			soil, and room to grow) and			
	2		how they vary from plant to			
			plant.			
	-		p.a			
			Investigate the way in which			
			water is transported within			
			plants.			
			pianes.			
			Explore the part that flowers			
			play in the life cycle of			
			flowering plants, including			
			pollination, seed formation			
			and seed dispersal.			
-	Identify and name a variety of	Notice that animals, including	Identify that animals,	Describe the simple functions	Describe the changes as	Identify and name the main
	common animals including	humans, have offspring which	including humans, need the	of the basic parts of the	humans develop to old age.	parts of the human circulatory
	fish, amphibians, reptiles,	grow into adults.	right types and amount of	digestive system in humans.	Hamans develop to old age.	system, and describe the
	birds and mammals.	grow into addits.	nutrition, and that they	digestive system in numans.		functions of the heart, blood
	birds and mariniais.	Find out about and describe	cannot make their own food;	Identify the different types of		vessels and blood.
	Identify and name a variety of	the basic needs of animals,	they get nutrition from what	teeth in humans and their		vessers and blood.
		including humans, for survival	they eat.	simple functions.		Recognise the impact of diet,
	carnivores, herbivores and	(water, food and air).	they eat.	simple functions.		exercise, drugs and lifestyle on
	omnivores.	(water, rood and any.	dentify that humans and some	Construct and interpret a		the way their bodies function.
	a offilitores.	Describe the importance for	other animals have skeletons	variety of food chains,		the way their bodies function.
	Describe and compare the	humans of exercise, eating the	and muscles for support,	identifying producers,		escribe the ways in which
	structure of a variety of	right amounts of different	protection and movement.	predators and prey.		nutrients and water are
	common animals (fish,	types of food, and hygiene.	protection and movement.	predators and prey.		transported within animals,
	common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets).	types of food, and flygletie.				including humans.
	and mammals, including pets).					including numans.
	and manimais, including pets).					
	Identify, name, draw and label					
	the basic parts of the human					
	body and say which part of					
	the body is associated with					
	•					
	each sense.					

	Distinguish between an object	Identify and compare the		
	and the material from which it	suitability of a variety of		
	is made.	everyday materials, including		
		wood, metal, plastic, glass,		
	Identify and name a variety of	brick, rock, paper and		
<u>s</u>	everyday materials, including	cardboard for particular uses.		
iri	wood, plastic, glass, metal,	·		
ate	water, and rock.	Find out how the shapes of		
Σ	,	solid objects made from some		
Everyday Materials	Describe the simple physical	materials can be changed by		
j.	properties of a variety of	squashing, bending, twisting		
E	everyday materials.	and stretching.		
	, ,	S		
	Compare and group together			
	a variety of everyday			
	materials on the basis of their			
	simple physical properties.			
	Observe changes across the			
	four seasons.			
Changes				
aug	Observe and describe weather			
5	associated with the seasons			
lal	and how day length varies.			
Seasonal				
Sea				
"				

	Explore and compare the		Recognise that living things	Describe the differences in the	Describe how living things are
	differences between things		can be grouped in a variety of	life cycles of a mammal, an	classified into broad groups
	that are living, dead, and		ways.	amphibian, an insect and a	according to common
	things that have never been			bird.	observable characteristics and
	alive.		Explore and use classification		based on similarities and
			keys to help group, identify	Describe the life process of	differences, including micro-
	Identify that most living things		and name a variety of living	reproduction in some plants	organisms, plants and
6	live in habitats to which they		things in their local and wider	and animals.	animals.
tat	are suited and describe how		environment.		
abi	different habitats provide for				Give reasons for classifying
Ξ̈́	the basic needs of different		Recognise that environments		plants and animals based on
Jei	kinds of animals and plants,		can change and that this can		specific characteristics.
=	and how they depend on each		sometimes pose dangers to		
an	other.		living things.		
Living Things and their Habitats					
≣َ	Identify and name a variety of				
<u> </u>	plants and animals in their				
. <u>≒</u>	habitats, including micro-				
_	habitats.				
	Describe how animals obtain				
	their food from plants and				
	other animals, using the idea				
	of a simple food chain, and				
	identify and name different				
	sources of food.				
		Compare and group together			
		different kinds of rocks on the			
		basis of their appearance and			
		simple physical properties.			
ks		Describe in simple terms how			
Rocks		fossils are formed when things			
_		that have lived are trapped			
		within rock.			
		Recognise that soils are made			
		from rocks and organic			
		matter.			

	December that the control limit	December that Pake and and
	Recognise that they need light	Recognise that light appears
	in order to see things and that	to travel in straight lines.
	dark is the absence of light.	
		Use the idea that light travels
	Notice that light is reflected	in straight lines to explain that
	from surfaces.	objects are seen because they
		give out or reflect light into
	Recognise that light from the	the eye.
	sun can be dangerous and	
Light	that there are ways to protect	Explain that we see things
=	their eyes.	because light travels from
	then eyest	light sources to our eyes or
	Recognise that shadows are	from light sources to objects
	formed when the light from a	and then to our eyes.
	light source is blocked by an	and then to our eyes.
		Use the idea that light travels
	opaque object.	
	F. J. W. C. H. W. C.	in straight lines to explain why
	Find patterns in the way that	shadows have the same shape
	the size of shadows change.	as the objects that cast them.
	Compare how things move on	Explain that unsupported
	different surfaces.	objects fall towards the Earth
		because of the force of gravity
	Notice that some forces need	acting between the Earth and
	contact between two objects,	the falling object.
	but magnetic forces can act at	
	a distance.	Identify the effects of air
		resistance, water resistance
	Observe how magnets attract	and friction, that act between
	or repel each other and	moving surfaces.
ţ	attract some materials and	
l sue	not others.	Recognise that some
/Jag		mechanisms, including levers,
9	Compare and group together	pulleys and gears, allow a
an	a variety of everyday	smaller force to have a greater
Forces and Magnets	materials on the basis of	effect.
or o	whether they are attracted to	Circui.
ш.	•	
	a magnet, and identify some	
	magnetic materials.	
	Describe manuals as having	
	Describe magnets as having	
	two poles.	
	Predict whether two magnets	
	will attract or repel each	
	other, depending on which	
	poles are facing.	

		Compare and group materials	
		together, according to	
		whether they are solids,	
		liquids or gases.	
		liquius of gases.	
		Observe that some materials	
_		change state when they are	
Ħ		heated or cooled, and	
Ja		measure or research the	
Ę		temperature at which this	
States of Matter		happens in degrees Celsius	
ate		(°C).	
St		(C).	
		Identify the part played by	
		evaporation and condensation	
		in the water cycle and	
		associate the rate of	
		evaporation with	
		temperature.	
		Identify how sounds are	
		made, associating some of	
		them with something	
		vibrating.	
		Recognise that vibrations from	
		sounds travel through a	
		medium to the ear.	
9		Find patterns between the	
Sound		pitch of a sound and features	
Š		of the object that produced it.	
		•	
		Find patterns between the	
		volume of a sound and the	
		strength of the vibrations that	
		produced it.	
		produced it.	
		December that according to	
		Recognise that sounds get	
		fainter as the distance from	
		the sound source increases.	

	Identify common appliances	Associate the brightness of a
	that run on electricity.	lamp or the volume of a
		buzzer with the number and
	Construct a simple series	voltage of cells used in the
	electrical circuit, identifying	circuit.
	and naming its basic parts,	
	including cells, wires, bulbs,	Compare and give reasons for
	switches and buzzers.	variations in how components
	3.11.01.03 0.110 0.0220131	function, including the
	Identify whether or not a lamp	brightness of bulbs, the
	will light in a simple series	loudness of buzzers and the
-\$		on/off position of switches.
Electricity	circuit, based on whether or	on/on position of switches.
ğ	not the lamp is part of a	
≝	complete loop with a battery.	Use recognised symbols when
		representing a simple circuit
	Recognise that a switch opens	in a diagram.
	and closes a circuit and	
	associate this with whether or	
	not a lamp lights in a simple	
	series circuit.	
	Recognise some common	
	conductors and insulators,	
	and associate metals with	
	being good conductors.	
	being good conductors.	

			Compare and group together
			everyday materials on the
			basis of their properties,
			including their hardness,
			solubility, transparency,
			conductivity (electrical and
			thermal), and response to
			magnets.
			Know that some materials will
			dissolve in liquid to form a
			solution, and describe how to
			recover a substance from a
1			solution.
S			Solution.
Properties and Changes of Materials			Use knowledge of solids,
Ę			liquids and gases to decide
Š			how mixtures might be
οę			separated, including through
es			
ang			filtering, sieving and
Ë			evaporating.
P			City was based on
sal			Give reasons, based on
Ę			evidence from comparative
Je r			and fair tests, for the
ō			particular uses of everyday
			materials, including metals,
			wood and plastic.
			Demonstrate that dissolving,
			mixing and changes of state
			are reversible changes.
			Explain that some changes
			result in the formation of new
			materials, and that this kind of
			change is not usually
			reversible, including changes
			associated with burning and
1			the action of acid on
			bicarbonate of soda.
	 •	·	· ·

			Describe the movement of the	
			Earth, and other planets,	
			relative to the Sun in the solar	
			system.	
ø			Describe the movement of the	
pac			Moon relative to the Earth.	
Earth and Space			Describe the Sun, Earth and	
au			Moon as approximately	
1 =			spherical bodies.	
ŭ			sprierioal boures.	
			Use the idea of the Earth's	
			rotation to explain day and	
			night and the apparent	
			movement of the sun across	
			the sky.	
				Recognise that living things
				have changed over time and that fossils provide
				information about living
				things that inhabited the Earth
nce				millions of years ago.
rita				, ,
lhe				Recognise that living things
<u>+</u>				produce offspring of the same
an				kind, but normally offspring
io				vary and are not identical to
Evolution and Inheritance				their parents.
Evc				Identify how animals and
				plants are adapted to suit
				their environment in different
				ways and that adaptation may
				lead to evolution.