Geography in the Early Years

Understanding of the world educational programme (taken from the EYFS Framework 2023)

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.

Early learning goals that link to geography are:

EYFS Understanding the world

ELG People, culture and communities

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps.

In the foundation stage at Hollybrook the children…….

- Look at and talk about where they live.
- Learn that they live in Southampton, which is in England.
- Talk about different places that they visit eg the park, the beach, the farm, and can talk about some of the similarities and differences.
- Explore maps and make their own maps (often linked to stories such as 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt').
- Listen to stories which are set in different places, particularly different countries – this gives the opportunity to talk about how other countries are similar and different.
- Explore different places through some of our topics (eg animals - explore the different places they might live; what you can see etc; festivals/celebrations – learn about celebrations in other countries and this country eg Chinese New Year, Diwali, Eid).