

Leighton Academy Early Years Curriculum – Understanding the World

What we want to children to know and be able to do:			
Age	2-3 Years Nursery	3-4 Years Nursery	4-5 Years Reception
Knowledge and Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know and be able to talk about ourselves: our families, pets, appearances, preferences etc. Know who is in their immediate family. Make connections between the features of our family and other families. Talk about what my family celebrates – birthdays, Christmas etc. Notice and talk about differences between people. Explore and respond to different natural phenomena: weather, change. etc. Explore materials with different properties- natural materials, different sensations and textures etc. Explore natural materials, indoors and outside. Plant care for and watch cress grow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to understand how they and their family have grown and changed over time. Begin to understand that families celebrate different things. Name & show interest in different occupations. Continue to develop a positive attitude about the differences between people. Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials – leaves, conkers, ice etc and of materials with similar/different properties. Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary, including seasonal change & weather. Explore how things work: Beebots, wind-up toys, moving model vehicles. Explore and talk about different forces they can feel – magnets, floating, sinking. Plant & care for growing plants: grass, bulbs and sunflowers. Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plants & animals: caterpillars, butterflies etc. Begin to respect & care for the natural environment & all living things. Know that there are different countries in the world, talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidently talks about their family and community. Name and describe people who are familiar to them. Understand that some places are special to members of their community. Beginning to recognise different celebrations and beliefs Draw information from a simple map. Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries (Hot countries). Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live. Explore and describes the natural world around them. Discusses on images of familiar situations in the past. Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past. Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.
Key Vocabulary:	<i>Family, mummy, daddy, brother, sister, pet, Christmas, Easter, birthday, tree, flower, leaf, grass, sun, rain, cloud, wind, water, dog, cat, bird, fish, cow, horse, duck, same, different, big, small, long, short, home, school, park, shop, street, garden, day, night, morning, yesterday, today, tomorrow.</i>		<i>Tree, plant, flower, leaf, seed, sun, rain, cloud, wind, water, weather, rough, smooth, warm, cold, float, sink, family, friend, neighbour, teacher, community, helper, same, different, alike, bigger, smaller, longer, morning, afternoon, evening, today, yesterday, tomorrow, first, next, last.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names of family members. All families are different. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names of some occupations. We are all unique but all important. Things change over time – them, the seasons etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special places: church, mosque, synagogue

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<p><i>What will be explicitly taught:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different types of weather. • How we dress for the weather. • Names of vehicles. • That we can travel in different ways. • How to plant cress. • How to water cress and care for it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to identify the weather. • To identify seasonal changes: colour of leaves, buds on trees, flowers etc. • How to use the wind-up toys & model vehicles. • How to experiment with a Beebot. • Some objects float on top of water, some sink underneath. • That magnetic vehicles can push and pull each other. • How to plant and care for seeds and bulbs: sunflowers and amaryllis. • Name seedlings, roots, stem, leaves, & flowers. • Life cycles are how animals change: caterpillars. • A map shows where different countries are. • We live in Great Britain an island. • The weather and landscape in other countries are different: Travelling Ted, Handa's Surprise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations and festivals: Diwali, Bonfire night (Guy Fawkes) Remembrance Day, Hannukah, Christmas around the world. • Diversity- we are all different and unique and that's OK • Know about Chinese New Year and Easter. • Changing state – Melting (Snow). • Visit: farm, spring and lambing, • Discussing similarities and differences: farm and town. • Changing state: bread making – Hannukah • Past and present- toys and old family pictures. • Seasonal change – Spring to Summer. • Similarities and differences of living on a farm, town / city. • Rivers, ocean, sea- map • Floating and sinking – boat making.
<p><i>Provision:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories about families, photographs of children's families, homes, pets etc. Mirrors. Home role play area. • Weather gauge and calendar, rain collection, thermometer, windmills. Sun hats, wellies. • Loose natural materials- pinecones, conkers, ice, leaves etc. Magnifying glasses, sorting hoops. • Photographers and models of transport- cars, trucks, emergency vehicles, boats etc. Ride on vehicles outside: trikes, scooters etc. • Soil, pots, trowel, watering cans, bulbs, seeds. Plants. Pictures of plants. • Wind up and moving toys. Beebots. • Water tray with objects that sink and float. • Magnets, toy cars that attach via magnets. • Travelling Ted, globe, maps of world. Stories and photographs of other countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographs of the family in a family photo album, home roleplay, photographs of the buildings and simple map. • Tuff tray/small world: atlases, maps, globe, animals, blocks, pictures of the community, buildings, Legos, small people, vehicles, wooden blocks. • Season experiments: boats, junk modelling, materials, sticks, rocks, leaves, grass, ice blocks, flour, water 	