

EYFS Curriculum Links



What does Science look like in Early Years?



Real-life experiences

Language rich environment

Sensory play

Outdoor Learning

Purposeful interactions



In EYFS, children are introduced to science/thinking scientifically through the 'Understanding the World' area of learning; specifically, the 'Natural World' Early Learning Goal. By the end of Reception, children who are at the expected level of development in the area will:

- 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.

In both Nursery and Reception, children begin to develop their understanding of the world around them. They learn about science by undertaking activities that help them to develop their skills in working scientifically and are supported and encouraged to think critically through a carefully planned provision where rich vocabulary is paramount. Scientific thinking is often introduced indirectly through activities that encourage every child to explore, problem solve, observe, predict, think, make decisions and talk about the world around them. The skills learned in EYFS equip the children with the scientific understanding they need to transition into KS1 where our curriculum is underpinned by 6 threshold concepts:

- Animals, humans and plants are made up of complex interacting systems in order to function. (*Biology*)
- Organisms require a supply of energy for organisms to carry out the basic functions of life and to grow. (*Biology*)
- The Earth is a complex of interacting rock, water, air and life. (*Chemistry*)
- The particle theory of matter is the abstract idea that helps us develop an understanding of why materials behave as they do. (*Chemistry*)
- Energy is a powerful and unifying abstract idea which is difficult to define. (*Physics*)
- Forces change the state of rest or motion of a body. They hold matter together and interplay between all objects. (*Physics*)