



Road map to Progress EYFS – Investigation Skills

2-3 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore natural and everyday objects using all senses.
- Touch, smell, look at and handle different materials.
- Notice simple differences in texture, colour and size.
- Watch and imitate adults investigating objects.

SPRING

- Explore how objects move and change.
- Begin sorting objects by simple features.
- Notice similarities and differences.
- Begin using simple language to describe observations.

SUMMER

- Observe what happens when actions create changes.
- Investigate simple problems through play.
- Compare objects by size, texture or appearance.
- Begin asking simple questions through words, gestures or expressions.

3-4 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore natural and man-made objects using their senses.
- Observe colours, textures, shapes and patterns.
- Show curiosity about new materials and resources.
- Use simple language to describe what they see and feel.

SPRING

- Notice changes in materials and objects.
- Compare objects using simple vocabulary.
- Sort and group objects by observable features.
- Begin to ask simple questions.

SUMMER

- Observe changes over time.
- Talk about what they notice.
- Compare and sort using more than one feature.
- Begin making simple suggestions about what might happen.



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3-4 year old

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- Show curiosity about new materials and resources.
- Use simple language to describe what they see and feel.

SPRING

- Notice changes in materials and objects.
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SUMMER

- Observe changes over time.
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Reception

AUTUMN

- Make careful observations using a range of resources.
- Talk confidently about findings.
- Recognise patterns and changes.
- Identify similarities and differences between objects.

SPRING

- Make simple predictions before investigating.
- Test ideas through practical exploration.
- Use tools such as magnifiers, measuring equipment and timers appropriately.
- Explain what happened using evidence from observations.

SUMMER

- Ask questions and suggest ways to find answers.
- Make predictions based on previous experiences.
- Explain findings using appropriate vocabulary.
- Compare results and draw simple conclusions.