



Road map to Progress EYFS – Water Skills

2-3 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore water using hands and simple containers.
- Splash, pour and watch water move.
- Fill and empty containers repeatedly.
- Develop awareness of wet and dry.

SPRING

- Pour water between containers.
- Explore different-sized containers.
- Transport water from one place to another.
- Begin to notice when containers are full or empty.

SUMMER

- Use a range of water equipment independently.
- Compare large and small containers.
- Show increasing control when pouring.
- Explore floating and sinking.

3-4 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore water using hands, cups, jugs and containers.
- Fill and empty a variety of containers.
- Pour water from one container to another with support.
- Develop vocabulary such as wet, dry, full, empty, splash.

SPRING

- Pour with increasing control and accuracy.
- Transport water between containers.
- Compare containers of different sizes.
- Begin to use language such as more, less, bigger, smaller.

SUMMER

- Use water tools independently (funnels, pipes, pumps).
- Investigate how water moves and flows.
- Compare quantities and capacities.
- Begin solving simple problems, such as moving water from one place to another.



Road map to Progress EYFS – Water Skills

3-4 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore water using hands, cups, jugs and containers.
- Fill and empty a variety of containers.
- Pour water from one container to another with support.
- Develop vocabulary such as wet, dry, full, empty, splash.

SPRING

- Pour with increasing control and accuracy.
- Transport water between containers.
- Compare containers of different sizes.
- Begin to use language such as more, less, bigger, smaller.

SUMMER

- Use water tools independently (funnels, pipes, pumps).
- Investigate how water moves and flows.
- Compare quantities and capacities.
- Begin solving simple problems, such as moving water from one place to another.

Reception

AUTUMN

- Measure and compare capacities using a range of containers.
- Use vocabulary such as full, half full, empty, nearly empty.
- Select resources independently for a purpose.
- Explain what they are doing and why.

SPRING

- Make predictions about floating, sinking and movement.
- Estimate which containers hold more or less.
- Investigate how materials and objects behave in water.
- Test ideas and discuss outcomes.

SUMMER

- Plan and carry out simple investigations independently.
- Explain findings using appropriate vocabulary.
- Compare, estimate and measure capacity confidently.
- Demonstrate understanding of cause and effect.