

Understanding the World

EYFS



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 increase 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.

Birth -3	3-4 years	Reception
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat actions that have an effect. • Explore materials with different properties. • Explore natural materials, indoors and outside • Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips. • Make connections between the features of their family and other families. • Notice differences between people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. • Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. • Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. • Begin to make sense of their own life-story and families history • Show interest in different occupations. • Explore how things work. • Plant seeds and care for growing plants. • Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. • Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. • Explore and talk about different forces they can feel. • Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. • Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people. • Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about members of their immediate family and community • Name and describe people who are familiar to them. • Comment on images of familiar situations in the past. • Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past • Draw information from a simple map. • Understand that some places are special to members of their community • Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. • Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. • Explore the natural world around them. • Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. • Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live. • Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them