



Subject Information



Science in Early Years

“Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community.” (Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage)

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Science is part of the ‘Understanding the World’ strand of learning. Through adult-led teaching, children are introduced to activities that encourage them to explore, problem-solve, observe, predict, think critically, make decisions, and talk about the world around them.

Children also observe and manipulate objects and materials to identify differences and similarities. Through Forest School activities, they explore creatures, plants, people, and objects in their natural environments. These experiences are extended into areas of provision, where children can investigate further independently or with adult support, developing their vocabulary and scientific skills.

Children are encouraged to ask questions about why things happen and how things work. *Understanding the World* sessions cover specific topics, including:

- Knowing about their own birth and the similarities and differences between themselves and others
- Understanding the function of the human body
- Using their senses to explore and recognise different foods
- Exploring patterns in the world around them
- Investigating ways to make changes to materials
- Understanding the changes in seasons

These activities provide a strong foundation for scientific thinking and curiosity, helping children develop the skills and vocabulary they will use throughout their learning journey.