



Science Progression in EYFS



The Natural World	
Nursery	Reception
Acquire and begin to use key vocabulary related to explorations of materials and living things in short phrases and sentences. For example, "This ice is really cold." "This leaf is going brown."	Observe seasonal changes occurring in the outdoor environment and begin to explain and link what is going on. For example, linking different examples of new life to springtime (leaves, frogspawn)
Explore a range of natural materials linked to weather and seasonal changes through hands on experience	Use senses of seeing, hearing and feeling to describe the natural world and make links to seasonal changes. For example: "I need to take my coat off because I'm too warm as the sun is shining."
Sort a range of materials according to a suggested criteria. For example: hard and soft, rough and smooth. Find and add own selections to a given group. For example "Can you find anything else shiny to go in this group?"	Begin to make comparisons between different local habitats. For example, seashore, woodland and garden.
Know, through practical experience that plants need soil and water to grow	Make observations, demonstrated in accurate drawings which include key features, of living things
Begin to sort according to own criteria and start to develop reasoning. For example: "I can't squash these things but I can squash the ones over here."	Sort a variety of objects or living things into two groups from own criteria. For example, wings/no wings, leg/no legs
Through practical experiences and stories, begin to know and explain lifecycles. For example: seed to plant, frogspawn to tadpole to frog, egg to caterpillar to butterfly	Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and to explain how things work and why they might happen.
Show care for living creatures and plants when playing and exploring	
Through play experiences, begin to investigate and describe: pushes, pulls, turns, twists, squashes, stretches, bounce, stop, start and acceleration	
End of Reception: Children will be curious about the natural world around them and observe changes and life processes with interest. They will have a working vocabulary for the natural world, including the names of plants, trees and animals. They will experiment with materials and objects to find out more about scientific processes and be confident to explore using all their senses. Children will record carefully what they have done and what they have found out.	
ELG: The Natural World	
Children at the expected level of development 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.	