

Nursery – Understanding the World

Programme of Study	Knowledge, Skills and Understanding	Activity/Links to Topics
<p align="center">Materials</p>	<p>Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.</p> <p>Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.</p> <p>Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.</p> <p>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.</p>	<p>Provide interesting natural environments for children to explore freely outdoors.</p> <p>Make collections of natural materials to investigate and talk about. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contrasting pieces of bark - different types of seeds (sycamore "helicopters", conkers, pine cones etc.) - different types and colours of leaves - different types of rocks - different shells and pebbles from the beach <p>Provide magnifying glasses for the children to look closely at the different natural materials.</p> <p>Encourage children to talk about what they see.</p> <p>Model observational and investigational skills. Ask out loud: "I wonder if...?"</p> <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary, encouraging children to use it to discuss their findings and ideas.</p> <p>Provide children with opportunities to change materials from one state to another. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cooking - combining different ingredients, and then cooling or heating (cooking) them - melting - leave ice cubes out in the sun, see what happens when you shake salt onto them (children should not touch to avoid danger of frostbite) <p>Explore how different materials sink and float.</p> <p>Explore how you can shine light through some materials, but not others. Investigate shadows.</p> <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration, and encourage children to use it.</p>
<p align="center">Living Things</p>	<p>Plant seeds and care for growing plants.</p> <p>Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.</p>	<p>Show and explain the concepts of growth, change and decay with natural materials.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plant seeds (sunflowers) and bulbs (daffodils) so children observe growth and decay over time

	<p>Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - observe different fruit the children eat (e.g. an apple core) going brown and mouldy over time - help children to care for animals and take part in first-hand scientific explorations of animal life cycles, such as caterpillars or ladybird larvae <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration. Encourage children to use it in their discussions, as they care for living things. Encourage children to refer to books, wall displays and online resources. This will support their investigations and extend their knowledge and ways of thinking.</p>
<p>Forces</p>	<p>Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.</p>	<p>Draw children's attention to forces. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how the water pushes up when they try to push a plastic boat under it - how they can stretch elastic, snap a twig, but can't bend a metal rod - magnetic attraction and repulsion <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration, and encourage children to use it.</p>