



Science in Early Years

Understanding of the world educational programme (taken from the EYFS Framework 2020)

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 increases 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.

In foundation stage the children.....

- Explore their own bodies and their senses
- Learn to name the parts of the body and what we use them for.
- Learn about animals and their homes, including pets, farm animals and wild animals.
- Observe changes such as chicks hatching and caterpillars turning into butterflies, the seasons changing, plants and flowers growing. They are supported to notice and talk about what is happening and why.
- Learn about being healthy, including eating a range of foods and taking part in exercise.
- Develop a sense of curiosity and exploration through a range of resources relating to our topics, eg magnets, magnifying glasses, things to smell and taste etc, and through the continuous provision areas such as sand, water, small world, construction etc.

Early learning goals that link to science:

EYFS - Understanding the world

ELG The natural world

- 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



Science Progression of Skills Year 1

In the following units, children will:	
Working Scientifically • Ask simple questions and recognise that they can be answered in different ways • Use simple equipment to observe closely • Perform simple tests • Identify and classify • Use his/her observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions • Gather and record data to help in answering questions	Everyday Materials • Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. • Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock. • Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials. • Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties (e.g. opaque/transparent, absorbent/non-absorbent.) Animals, including Humans • Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. • Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores • describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets). • Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense. Plants • Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. • Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. Seasonal Changes • Identify changes across the four seasons. • Observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.



Science Progression of Skills Year 2

In the following units, children will:

Working Scientifically

- Ask simple questions and recognise that they can be answered in different ways including use of scientific language from the national curriculum.
- Use simple equipment to observe closely including changes over time.
- Perform simple comparative tests.
- Identify, group and classify.
- Use his/her observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions noticing similarities, differences and patterns.
- Gather and record data to help in answering questions including from secondary sources of information.

Uses of Everyday Materials

- Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.
- Find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

Animals including Humans

- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.
- Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air).
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

Plants (Life Cycles)

- Observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants.
- Find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

Living Things and their Habitats (Life Cycles)

- Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive.
- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited.
- Describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including micro-habitats.
- Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals.
- Understand a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.



Science Progression of Skills Year 3

In the following units, children will:

Working Scientifically

- Ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them.
- Set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests.
- Make systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, take accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers.
- Gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions.
- Record findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables.
- Report on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions.
- Use results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions Identify differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes.
- Use straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.

Animals including Humans

- Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat.
- Identify that humans and some animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.

Magnets and Forces

- Compare how things move on different surfaces.
- Notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance.
- Observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others.
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials.
- Describe magnets as having two poles.
- Predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.

Rocks

- Compare and group together different kinds of rocks (incl those in the locality) on the basis of appearance and simple physical properties.
- Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.
- Recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Plants

- Identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers.
- Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant.
- Investigate the way in which water is transported within plants.
- Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, e.g: pollination, seed formation, seed dispersal.
- Know that plants make their own food.

Living Things and their Habitats (Y4)

- *Recognise that living things (including those in the locality) can be grouped in a variety of ways.*
- *Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.*
- *Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.*



Light

- Recognise that light is needed in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light.
- Notice that light is reflected from surfaces.
- Recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes.
- Recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object.
- Find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.



Science Progression of Skills Year 4

In the following units, children will:

Working Scientifically

- Ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them.
- Set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests
- Make systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, take accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers
- Gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions
- Record findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables
- Report on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions
- Use results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions
- Identify differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes
- Use straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support his/her findings

States of Matter

- Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius °C.
- Identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Animals including Humans

- Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans.
- Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Electricity

- Identify common appliances that run on electricity.
- Construct a simple series circuit, identifying/naming its basic parts, including cell, wire, bulb, switch and buzzer.
- Draw the circuit as a pictorial representation, not necessarily using conventional circuit symbols.
- *Use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.*
- Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit.
- Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit.
- Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

Living things and their Habitats (Y6)

- *Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals.*
- *Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.*
- *Know that broad groupings, such as micro-organisms, plants and animals can be subdivided.*
- *Classify animals into commonly found invertebrates (such as insects, spiders, snails, worms) and vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals).*

Light (Y6)

- *Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines.*
- *Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye.*
- *Explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.*
- *Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.*



- *Work scientifically by: deciding where to place rear-view mirrors on cars; designing and making a periscope and using the idea that light appears to travel in straight lines to explain how it works.*
- *Look at a range of phenomena including rainbows, colours on soap bubbles, objects looking bent in water and coloured filters (they do not need to explain why these phenomena occur).*

Sound

- Identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating.
- Recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear.
- Find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it.
- Find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it.
- recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.



Science Progression of Skills Year 5

In the following units, children will:

Working Scientifically

- Plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary.
- Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate.
- Record data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.
- Use test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.
- Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.
- Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

Living things and their Habitats

- Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- Raise questions about their local environment throughout the year.
- Find out about the work of naturalists and animal behaviourists, for example, David Attenborough and Jane Goodall.
- Find out about different types of reproduction, including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, and sexual reproduction in animals.

Earth and Space

- Describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.
- Describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth.
- Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies.
- Use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.
- Learn that the Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system and that it has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune (Pluto was reclassified as a 'dwarf planet' in 2006).
- Understand that a moon is a celestial body that orbits a planet (Earth has one moon; Jupiter has four large moons and numerous smaller ones).

Forces

- Explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object.
- Identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction, that act between moving surfaces.
- Recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.
- Explore the effects of air resistance by observing how different objects such as parachutes and sycamore seeds fall.
- Explore the effects of friction on movement and find out how it slows or stops moving objects.
- Find out how scientists, for example, Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton helped to develop the theory of gravitation.

Properties and changes of materials

- Compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets.
- Know that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution.
- Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating.
- Give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic.



- *Demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes.*
- *Explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda.*
- *Explore reversible changes, including, evaporating, filtering, sieving, melting and dissolving, recognising that melting and dissolving are different processes.*
- *Explore changes that are difficult to reverse, for example, burning, rusting and other reactions, for example, vinegar with bicarbonate of soda.*

Animals, including Humans

- Describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- Draw a timeline to indicate stages in the growth and development of humans.
- Understand the changes experienced in puberty.



Science Progression of Skills Year 6

In the following units, children will:

Working Scientifically

- Plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer their own or others' questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary.
- Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate.
- Record data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.
- Use test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.
- Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.
- Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.
- Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments
- *Describe and evaluate their own and other people's scientific ideas related to topics in the national curriculum (including ideas that have changed over time), using evidence from a range of sources.*
- *Group and classify things and recognise patterns.*

Animals, including Humans

- Identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.
- Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.
- Describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.
- Explore questions to understand how the circulatory system enables the body to function.
- Learn how to keep their bodies healthy and how their bodies might be damaged – including how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body.
- Explore the work of scientists and scientific research about the relationship between diet, exercise, drugs, lifestyle and health.

Evolution and Inheritance

- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
- Understand that characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring, i.e. different breeds of dogs, and what happens when, for example, Labradors are crossed with poodles.
- Appreciate that variation in offspring over time can make animals more or less able to survive in particular environments, for example, by exploring how giraffes' necks got longer.
- Find out about the work of palaeontologists such as Mary Anning and about how Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace developed their ideas on evolution.

Electricity

- Associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit.
- Compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches.
- Construct simple series circuits, to help them to answer questions about what happens when they try different components, for example, switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors.
- Learn how to represent a simple circuit in a diagram using recognised symbols.

Living things and their Habitats

- find out about the significance of the work of scientists such as Carl Linnaeus, a pioneer of classification.