

How is Science taught in Reception?

Science falls under the strand 'Understanding the World' and within 'The Natural World'.

Understanding the World is one of the four specific areas of learning in the EYFS framework.

Prime and specific areas of learning...

The three prime areas are Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development AND Communication and Language.

The four specific areas are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

The three prime areas are the focus for practitioners working with children in Reception as these form the basis for successful learning and progress in the four specific areas.

'The Natural World' Early Learning Goal (where we expect children should be by the end of Reception):

'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'.

In order for children to achieve this Early Learning Goal we provide lots of opportunities for children to talk about what they observe inside and outside the classroom. For example...

- ✚ Show and Tell
- ✚ News Time / Tapestry observations from home
- ✚ Focus weeks (for example when planning is focused on 'Our Garden', 'Hatching duckling eggs', 'Science Experiments, Space etc...')
- ✚ Topic based Busy Learning activities (continuous provision).
- ✚ Dedicated Investigation Area indoors (plants / animals / interesting objects to explore).
- ✚ Outdoor areas to explore freely and in all weathers and seasons. Outdoor resources to encourage investigation / magnifying glasses / gardening tools / plants / brushes and wheel barrows to sweep leaves etc...
- ✚ Discussions during Team Learning Time
- ✚ Topic based Busy Learning Activities (continuous provision)
- ✚ Special Events are utilised and made the basis of our Learning for that week (for example, St Piran's Day, Chinese New Year, Diwali). This encourages children to talk about what they have observed and have found out.
- ✚ Opportunities for Parents and other visitors (for example scientists etc...).
- ✚ Trips out and about our local environment (for example, Trelissick Gardens, Tregony Woods, Ships and Castles).
- ✚ Gardening clubs run by Reception parents (planting herbs, vegetables and flowers).
- ✚ Book of the Week: linked to our weekly topics.
- ✚ Music and singing time: linked to our topic of the week.