

How is Geography taught in Reception?

Geography falls under the strand 'Understanding the World' and within 'People, Cultures and Community'.

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 (PSED), Physical Development (PD) AND Communication and Language (CL).

The four specific areas are Literacy (L), Mathematics (M), Understanding the World (UW) and Expressive Arts and Design (EAD).

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.

'People, Cultures and Community' Early Learning Goal (where we expect children should be by the end of Reception):

'Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps. Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps'.

In order for children to achieve this Early Learning Goal we provide lots of opportunities for children to talk about their environment. For example...

- ✚ News Time: Children tell the class about places they have visited and holidays etc...
- ✚ Focus weeks (for example when planning is focused on topics about People, Culture and Communities such as 'Our Garden', 'Our World, Handa's Surprise (Africa) etc...)
- ✚ Discussions during Daily Team Learning Time about our topics and our own experiences.
- ✚ Topic based Busy Learning Activities (our continuous provision e.g. making their own maps outdoors / treasure hunts etc...)
- ✚ Dedicated investigation area (changed regularly depending on topic so may include maps, Globe, interesting objects from other countries etc...)
- ✚ Trips out and about our local environment (for example, Trelissick Gardens, Tregony Woods, Ships and Castles).
- ✚ Book of the Week: based on our topics e.g. Handa's Surprise.
- ✚ Show and Tell Homework opportunities: for example, children are encouraged to find out about their local community, look at maps and Globes and find out facts about other countries at home.