

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.

Understanding the World – Specific Area

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	Early Learning Goals
Nursery Skills	<p>Recognise key events in their life. (PP)</p> <p>Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family’s history. (PP)</p> <p>Link small world resources to real life context. (PP)</p>	<p>Show interest in different occupations. (PCC)</p> <p>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. (NW)</p> <p>Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. (NW)</p> <p>Develop positive attitudes about the differences between people. (PCC)</p>	<p>Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. (NW)</p> <p>Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. (NW)</p>	<p>Plant seeds and care for growing plants. (NW)</p> <p>Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. (NW)</p> <p>Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. (NW)</p> <p>Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. (NW)</p>	<p>Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. (NW)</p> <p>Recognise that there are different countries. (PCC)</p>	<p>Explore how things work.</p> <p>Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.</p> <p>Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. (NW)</p>	
Nursery Knowledge	<p>Know some key events in their own life and talk about them. (PP)</p> <p>Talk about how small world links to real life contexts. E.g. farm animals. (PP)</p>	<p>Know that people do different jobs in the community and understand that these roles help others in different ways. (PCC)</p> <p>Know some of the changes they can see inside</p>	<p>Know that natural materials feel, look, smell and sound different from one another and begin to talk about what they notice (e.g., rough bark, smooth stones, crunchy leaves). (NW)</p>	<p>Know some things that plants need to grow. (NW)</p> <p>Know some of the ways to care for the environment. (NW)</p>	<p>Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. (PCC)</p>		

	Know some of the connections between their family and other families. (PCC)	and outside. (NW) Know some of the differences between people. (PCC)		Know some specific vocabulary linked to growing. E.g. stem, leaves, petals.			
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Reception							
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	Early Learning Goals
Reception Skills	<p>Talk about members of their immediate family and community. (PCC)</p> <p>Name and describe people who are familiar to them. (PCC)</p> <p>Comment on images of familiar situations in the past. (PP)</p>	<p>Comment on images of familiar situations in the past. (PP)</p> <p>Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. (PCC)</p> <p>Explore the natural world around them. (NW)</p> <p>Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them. (NW)</p>	<p>Understand that some places are special to members of their community. (PCC) – Link to R.E</p> <p>Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live. (PCC)</p>	<p>Explore the natural world around them. (NW)</p> <p>Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them. (NW)</p>	<p>Draw information from a simple map (PCC)</p> <p>Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. (PCC)</p>	<p>Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them. (NW)</p> <p>Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. (NW)</p>	<p><u>Past and Present</u></p> <p>Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society.</p> <p>Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</p> <p>Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.</p>
Reception Knowledge	<p>Know how they have changed from a baby to now. (PP)</p>	<p>Know some of the signs of Autumn. (NW)</p> <p>Recognise</p>	<p>Know that natural materials have specific properties (e.g., hard, soft, wet,</p>	<p>Know some of the signs of Spring. (NW)</p>	<p>Know that some things in the world are man</p>	<p>Know how to plant seeds and talk about what plants need to grow. (NW)</p>	<p><u>People, Culture and Communities</u></p> <p>Describe their immediate</p>

	<p>Know about family structures and talk about who is part of their family. (PCC)</p> <p>Know the names for different body parts. (NW)</p>	<p>traditions within own life and those of others. (PP)</p> <p>Identify similarities and differences between themselves and peers. (PCC)</p> <p>Talk about how Hindus celebrate Diwali. (PCC)</p> <p>Talk about the Christmas Story and how it is celebrated. (PCC)</p> <p>Talk about why Christmas is special to Christians. (PCC)</p>	<p>dry, flexible, brittle) and can compare, describe and explain differences using a wider vocabulary linked to their senses. (NW)</p> <p>Talk about Chinese New Year. (PCC)</p> <p>Recognise different special places. (PCC) – Link to R.E</p> <p>Know some of the signs of Winter. (NW)</p>		<p>-made and some things are natural. (NW)</p> <p>Know some important processes and changes in the natural world including states of matter. E.g. melting, floating and sinking.</p>	<p>Know some of the life cycles of plants and animals.</p> <p>Know some of the signs of Summer. (NW)</p>	<p>environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p><u>The Natural World</u></p> <p>Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.</p> <p>Know some similarities and differences between the natural world</p>
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