

Pathway to understanding: Understanding the world



3 & 4 year olds will be learning to...

- a) Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.
- b) Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.
- c) Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.
- d) Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.
- e) Show interest in different occupations.
- f) Explore how things work.
- g) Plant seeds and care for growing plants
- h) Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.
- i) Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.
- j) Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.
- k) Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.
- l) Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people.
- m) Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

Development Matters

Making sense of children's physical world and community

Broadening experiences to build knowledge and sense

Use the written word to foster understanding

Enrich children's vocabulary related to their world

Lay the foundations for future enrichment

Children in reception will be learning to...

- a) Talk about members of their immediate family and community.
- b) Name and describe people who are familiar to them.
- c) Comment on images of familiar situations in the past.
- d) Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.
- e) Draw information from a simple map.
- f) Understand that some places are special to members of their community.
- g) Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.
- h) Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.
- i) Explore the natural world around them.
- j) Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.
- k) Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live.
- l) Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

Development Matters

Understanding the World



1. Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society;
2. Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
3. Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.



4. Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps;
5. 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;
6. 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.



7. Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants;
8. 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;
9. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Early Learning Goal

