Learning in EYFS: Science

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The aim of this document is to help subject leaders to understand how the skills taught across EYFS feed into national curriculum subjects. This document demonstrates which early years outcomes are prerequisite skills for science within the national curriculum.

The most relevant early years outcomes for science are taken from the following areas of learning:

- Physical Development
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Science					
30-50	Physical	Health and Self-	• To observe the effects of physical activity		
Months	development	Care	on their bodies.		
	Understanding	The World	• To comment and ask questions about		
	the World		aspects of their familiar world, such as the		
			place where they live or the natural world.		
			• To talk about some of the things they have		
			observed, such as plants, animals, natural and found objects.		
			To talk about why things happen and how		
			things work.		
			• To develop an understanding of growth,		
			decay and changes over time. • To show care		
			and concern for living things and the		
			environment.		
	Expressive Arts	Exploring and	• To begin to be interested in and describe		
	and Design	Using Media and	the texture of things.		
		Materials			
40-60	Physical	Health and Self-	• To eat a healthy range of foodstuffs and		
Months	Development	Care	understand a need for variety in food.		
			• To show some understanding that good		
			practices with regard to exercise, eating,		
			sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.		
	Understanding	The World	• To look closely at similarities, differences,		
	the World		patterns and change.		
ELG	Physical	Health and Self-	• To know the importance for good health of		
	Development	Care	physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk		
			about ways to keep healthy and safe.		
	Understanding	The World	• To know about similarities and differences		
	the World		in relation to places, objects, materials and		
			living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how		
			environments might vary from one another.		
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In the EYFS lessons we interlink learning of subjects therefore subjects are not necessarily taught discretely. Here is an overview of is taught.

Autumn term:	Experiences the children will take part in:
Human body	The children will take part in a variety of activities to name parts of the
	body, for example singing songs, drawing around their body and
	labelling it.
	They will take part in activities to introduce them to the senses, listening games, tasting foods, smelling activities, feely bags (naming texture smooth, bumpy etc) and looking activities using coloured paddles. During PE sessions children will talk about what is happening to their body: faster heart, felling hot, breathing faster.
Autumn	Talk about the changes they notice in the outdoors.
	Share a variety of information and story books to find out about Autumn.
	Use autumnal colours to create autumn art work.
	Look at woodland animals.

Spring Term	Experiences the children will take part in:
Winter	The children will talk about key features of winter and notice changes in
	their environment, ice, frost etc
	Introduce them to hibernation.
	Take part in ice experiments, leaving it in the classroom and discussing
	what is happening to it.
	Painting on ice
	Take part in a variety of art activities using winter colours.
	Sorting winter/summer clothes and explaining their reasoning.
	Linked to polar regions.
Spring	Talk about the changes they notice in the outdoors.
	Share a variety of information and story books to find out about spring.
	Use spring colours to create spring art work.
	Planting a pea seed and talking about what it needs to grow.
	Taking care of the plants in the outdoors.
	Planting vegetables and observing the changes.
	Labelling simple parts of a plant.
Growth	Watching chicks hatch and learning the life cycle of a hen.
	Watching caterpillars change into a butterfly and learning the life cycle
	of a butterfly.
	Sorting toys and objects which babies, children and adults may need.
	Looking at baby photos and talking about how they have changed.

Summer Term	Experiences the children will take part in:
Summer	Talk about the changes they notice in the outdoors, weather and natural
	resources.
	Share a variety of information and story books to find out about
	summertime.
	Use summer colours to create summer art work.
	Learn about keeping safe in the sun.
Animals	Children will take part in a variety of activities starting with a story to
	learn about different animal's such as names, environments they live in,
	key features, baby names etc
	They will go on hunts, produce art work, look at books, label, write
	information about, small world play
	Mini-beasts, farm animals, jungle animals, sea life.
Materials	Floating and sinking
	Magnetic and non-magmatic
	Mixing materials together and making predictions for example,
	bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.
	Which material will move down the slope the quickest? Soap, cream,
	water etc