

## Science in the Foundation Stage—Nursery



### What does it look like?

Science in nursery is mainly covered through 'understanding of the world' area in the curriculum. Science is spread around throughout the nursery from outdoor mud kitchen or bug hunts, books about the world, our bodies and animals in the reading area through to a science area where the children are encouraged to explore the natural materials provided, investigating materials or take care of our pet fish. Children are challenged weekly with adult led science experiments or self-initiated activities set out where children. These are mainly focused around children's next steps and interests with lots of question opportunities.



### Early Years Outcomes

3-4 years

- Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.
- Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.
- Plant seeds and care for growing plants.
- Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.
- Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.
- Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.
- Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all the living things.
- Explore colour and colour mixing.

### Key Knowledge and Skills- Children will:

- Name simple body parts (head, legs, arms, hair, feet, nose eyes mouth)
- Talk about how animals change e.g. chick to chicken, caterpillar to butterfly
- Sort land and sea animals
- Show concern for living things
- Talk about how things change over time

### WOW words

Bigger  
Smaller  
Change  
Grow  
Explore  
Why?

### Key Questions

What can you see/smell/hear?  
What has happened?  
How did that happen?  
Is it hard or soft?  
Is it big or small?

