



Science at Foundation Stage is introduced indirectly through activities that encourage your child to explore, problem solve, observe, predict, think, make decisions and talk about the world around them. It's called 'knowledge and understanding of the world'.

Early Years science also helps children with skills in other Foundation Stage areas of the national curriculum, such as physical development and creative development.

Knowledge and understanding of the world.

Children explore creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments. They observe and manipulate objects and materials to identify differences and similarities. For example, they may look at an egg whisk, sand, paper and water to learn about things that are natural and manmade and their different functions. Children also learn to use their senses, feeling dough or listening to sounds in the environment, such as sirens or farm animals.

Your child will be encouraged to ask questions about why things happen and how things work. They might do activities such as increasing the incline of a slope to observe how fast a vehicle travels, or opening a mechanical toy to see how it works. Your child will also be asked questions about what they think will happen to help them communicate, plan, investigate, record and evaluate findings.

Physical development

Awareness of space may be taught by encouraging children to make big and small movements to music and to think about how much space they need. They will also learn to recognise changes that happen to the body when they are active.

Children will also learn about the importance of keeping healthy and the things that contribute to this by, for example, cooking or identifying fruit and vegetables.

Expressive arts and design

Children explore and respond to a variety of sensory experiences through music and art. Children might collect materials, such as rough sandpaper, soft fabric and shiny bottle tops to build a sensory wall. They explore colour, texture, shape, form and space by mixing colours, painting, modelling and dancing.

They also learn about sounds - how they can be changed and how to imitate sounds they hear.