

The Early Learning Goals are what we want each child to achieve by the end of reception. The main one with scientific objectives is: Understanding the World

Understanding the World

ELG: Past and Present

Children at the expected level of development will:

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

ELG: People, Culture and Communities

Children at the expected level of development will:

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

ELG: The Natural World

Children at the expected level of development will:

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

So there are a few links in the first 2 ELGs, but the majority of science based learning is in the natural world ELG.

This is taught through exploration and specific teaching. For example in autumn 1, we were looking at the changes in seasons, exploring the forest, describing natural materials and using them to re-tell stories. We learnt about animals which hibernate and then enhanced this learning through play, with stories and activities in the provision, both adult and child led.

This term our R2W and S2R units are all about stars and space so we are going to be looking at space, earth etc to increase their knowledge of the world and space.

We also constantly ask 'I wonder...' questions – I wonder what will happen if we put this stone in the water etc. to develop scientific enquiry, even when not related to science. Children also learn to explain their ideas and try different things to see what happens e.g. how far can the car roll? What if we use a ramp?

This is assessed through discussion and observations by all adults.