

Skelton School EYFS Science Concepts, Investigation and Exploration

Children in the EYFS explore and learn about scientific concepts such as hot and cold and forces through weekly sessions of 'Science and Investigation Time'. Each session shows the progress of knowledge, skills and vocabulary from one week to the next. Children show and demonstrate understanding through careful questioning and discrete assessment.

Example concepts covered throughout the year:

Concept	Focus Areas
Hot and Cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean if something is hot? • What does it mean if something is cold? • Comparison of hot and cold • Hot and cold clothing • Hot and cold climates and habitats
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft and hard • Rough and smooth • Textures • What is it made from?
The Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life cycle of a human - using language of baby, toddler, child, teenager and adult • Body parts (taught as part of the 'All About Me' topic) • The 5 senses - touch, sight, sound, taste and smell • Healthy eating • Exercise • Teeth
Forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push and pull • How do things work? • Cogs and manipulation
Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life cycle of a plant • Planting seeds • How does a plant grow? • What do plants need to grow?
Seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal changes • Features of spring • Features of summer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of autumn • Features of winter • Comparisons between seasons – similarities and differences
States of Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between a solid and a liquid • Melting and cooling

Links to Development Matters

Three- and Four-Year Olds – Understanding the World:

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

Children in Reception – Understanding the World:

- Explore the natural world around them.
- Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.
- Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

Early Learning Goal – The Natural World

- 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.