

# Westacre Infant School Skills Progression EYFS

## Subject Area - Understanding the World (Science)

Coverage	<p>Provide interesting natural environments for children to explore freely outdoors. Make collections of natural materials to investigate and talk about. Provide equipment to support these investigations eg magnifying glasses. Encourage children to talk about what they see. Model observational and investigational skills. Plan and introduce new vocabulary, encouraging children to use it to discuss their findings and ideas. Show and explain the concepts of growth, change and decay. Draw children's attention to forces eg water play, magnets. Change materials from one state to another eg cooking, melting, floating and sinking, light and shadows.</p>	<p>Provide children with frequent opportunities for outdoor play and exploration. Encourage interactions with the outdoors to foster curiosity. Discuss how we care for the natural world around us. Observe and interact with natural processes such as ice melting, a magnet attracting an object, a boat floating on water. Science Day – Summer Term – linked to Julia Donaldson topic. Offer opportunities to sing songs and join in with rhymes and poems about the natural world.</p> <p>Science Experiments – practical Science investigations to promote enquiry skills. Question why things happen, show curiosity, encourage speaking and listening. Encourage focused observation of the natural world. Model the vocabulary needed to name specific features. Seasons and weather in their play.</p>
Skills and knowledge	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nursery (3 - 4 yrs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use all their senses in hands on exploration of natural materials. (Forest school)</li> <li>• Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. Forest school, adult led activities, continuous provision.</li> <li>• Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.</li> <li>• Talk about what they see using a wide vocabulary.</li> <li>• Plant seeds and care for growing plants.</li> <li>• Understand the key features of the lifecycle of a plant and an animal.</li> <li>• Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. Plant seeds and care for growing plants. Use stories such as Jaspers Beanstalk, Jack and The Beanstalk and the Enormous Turnip. Planting seeds for flowers and vegetables.</li> <li>• Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reception</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the natural world around them</li> <li>• Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.</li> <li>• (Forest school)</li> <li>• Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. Forest school, adult led activities, continuous provision.</li> <li>• Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.</li> <li>• Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.</li> <li>• Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss the life cycle of a butterfly, children will observe caterpillars turn into butterflies. Frogspawn discuss the lifecycle of a frog.</li><li>• Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. Look at birds and different animals in the forest, children are encouraged to feed the birds, make bug hotels for the bugs they may find in the forest. Make hedgehog houses during Autumn Term.</li><li>• Explore and talk about the different forces they can feel.</li><li>• Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.</li></ul>	<p><b>Early Learning Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the natural world around them making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.</li></ul>
--	---	--