

# Science in the Early Years



Learning about forces by making wind streamers and testing them outside.

Learning about making healthy life choices during our visit from Harold on The Life Bus.



Investigating objects that float and sink during child-initiated learning.



Learning about recycling and caring for our world during a visit from Dorset Waste Partnership.



Science at Foundation Stage (Reception) is covered in the 'Understanding the World' area of the EYFS Curriculum.

Children have a natural instinctive curiosity to learn about the world around them and in Reception, we work hard to build upon this interest.

Science is introduced indirectly through activities that encourage the child to explore, problem solve, observe, predict, think, make decisions and talk about the world around them. Early Years Science also helps children with skills in other areas of the curriculum, such as Physical Development, Communication and Language, Mathematics and Expressive Arts and Design.

During their first year at school the children will explore creatures, people, plants and objects and natural environments. In the first term, the topic of 'Marvellous Me' opens a wealth of opportunities for the children to learn about the world around them both through child, curiosity led activities as well as through more, adult led work.

In all their early years science work, the children will be taught key scientific vocabulary and will be taught the skills of communicating their findings through using science specific terminology.

They will also observe and manipulate objects and materials to identify differences and similarities. For example, they may look a range of objects to learn about things that are natural and manmade and their different functions.

They will also learn to use their senses, feeling dough or listening to sounds in the environment, such as sirens or farm animals.

They will make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur and talk about changes.

The children will be encouraged to ask questions about why things happen and how things work. They might become engaged in 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.

In the Reception class, the children will also be asked questions about what they think will happen to help them communicate, plan, investigate, record and evaluate findings.

This way of working encompasses all the characteristics of effective learning and ensure the children are well prepared for further scientific discovery in Year 1.