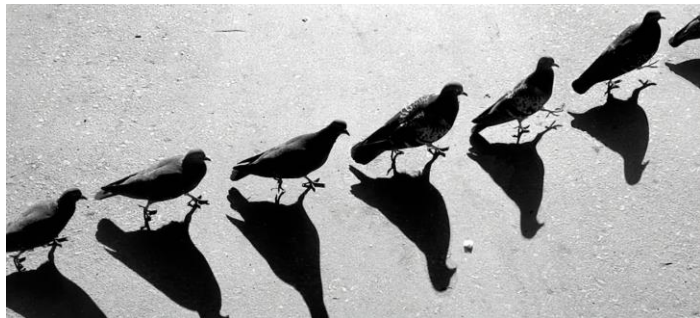


Nursery and Reception		
animals	butterfly	seasons
plants	melt	weather
touch	solid	sun
smell	push	heat/hot
hear	pull	cool/cold
see	sink	humid
nature	float	experiment
daffodil	ice	science
vegetable	vibration	cooking
woodlouse	shadow	
seeds	magnet	
Bulbs		
Life cycle		
caterpillar		

The Natural World Language Mat

Suggested nature nursery rhymes

Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary
Round and Round the Garden
I Had a Little Nut Tree
Little Robin Redbreast
Old Mac Donald Had A Farm
A Sailor Went To Sea
Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush



The Natural World - Nursery

► Key knowledge

Forces

Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.

- how they can stretch elastic, snap a twig, but cannot bend a metal rod
- magnetic attraction and repulsion
- how the water pushes up when they try to push a plastic boat under it
- magnetic attraction and repulsion

Plants

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.

plant seeds and bulbs so children observe growth and decay over time

observe an apple core going brown and mouldy over time

help children to care for animals and take part in first-hand scientific explorations of animal life cycles, such as caterpillars or chick eggs.

Materials

Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.

Provide children with opportunities to change materials from one state to another. cooking – combining different ingredients, and then cooling or heating (cooking) them melting – leave ice cubes out in the sun, see what happens when you shake salt onto them (children should not touch to avoid danger of frostbite)

Explore how different materials sink and float.

Explore how you can shine light through some materials, but not others.

Investigate shadows.

The Natural World – Forces Reception

ELG

Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants

Development matters:

Provide children with have frequent opportunities for outdoor play and exploration. Encourage interactions with the outdoors to foster curiosity and give children freedom to touch, smell and hear the natural world around them during hands-on experiences. Create opportunities to discuss how we care for the natural world around us.

Observe and interact with natural processes, such as ice melting, a sound causing a vibration, light travelling through transparent material, an object casting a shadow, a magnet attracting an object and a boat floating on water.

- ▶ [Early Learning Resources Under the Sea Planning \(earlylearninghq.org.uk\)](http://earlylearninghq.org.uk)
- ▶ [Early Learning Resources Cooking / Recipes for young children \(earlylearninghq.org.uk\)](http://earlylearninghq.org.uk)



The Natural World – animals and plants Reception

ELG:

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

Development Matters:

Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.

Encourage focused observation of the natural world. Listen to children describing and commenting on things they have seen whilst outside, including plants and animals. Encourage positive interaction with the outside world, offering children a chance to take supported risks, appropriate to themselves and the environment within which they are in. Name and describe some plants and animals children are likely to see, encouraging children to recognise familiar plants and animals whilst outside

Offer opportunities to sing songs and join in with rhymes and poems about the natural world. After close observation, draw pictures of the natural world, including animals and plants.

<https://www.earlylearninghq.org.uk/lesson-plans-activity-ideas/animals>



The Natural World – Seasons Reception

ELG: Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Development Matters: Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

Guide children's understanding by draw children's attention to the weather and seasonal features. Provide opportunities for children to note and record the weather. Select texts to share with the children about the changing seasons. Throughout the year, take children outside to observe the natural world and encourage children to observe how animals behave differently as the seasons change. Look for children incorporating their understanding of the seasons and weather in their play.

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

AUTUMN

