



Early Years Progression for Scientific Skills

The teaching of scientific skills and knowledge begins in Early Years at Longhoughton CE Primary School. Alongside this progression grid, effective communication and language skills are an essential part of scientific development for our youngest learners.

Nursery	Reception
The Natural World	
Through practical experiences and stories, begin to know and explain lifecycles (for example, seed to plant, frogspawn to frogs, egg to caterpillar)	Begin to make comparisons between local habitats. For example; seashores, woodland and a garden
Acquire and begin to use key vocabulary related to explorations of materials and living things in short phrases and sentences. For example, "this ice is really cold" "this leaf is going brown"	Make observations, demonstrated in drawings which include key features of living things
Explore a range of natural materials linked to weather and seasonal changes through hands on experiences	Observe seasonal changes occurring in the outdoor environment and begin to explain and link what is going on. For example; linking different examples of new life in the springtime (leaves, frogspawn)
To know, through practical experience that plants need soil and water to grow	Use senses of seeing, hearing and feeling to describe the natural world and make links to seasonal changes. For example; "I need my coat off because I am too warm as the sun is shining"
To show care for living creatures and plants when playing and exploring	
Materials and Categorising	
Begin to sort according to own criteria and start to develop reasoning. For example "I cant squash these things but I can squash the ones over here"	Sort a variety of objects and living things into two groups from own criteria. For example; wings/no wings, legs/no legs
Sort a range of materials according to a suggested criteria. For example; hard and soft, rough and smooth	
Find and add own selections to a given group. For example; can you find something else shiny to go in this group?"	
Through play experiences, begin to investigate and describe: Pushes and pulls Turns and twists Squashes and stretches Bounce Stops, starts and accelerating	