



Help your child to learn at home.

Understanding the World

This area of learning has three strands in the Birth to 5 Matters framework:

- People and communities
- The World
- Technology

It includes exploring, investigating, using computers, discovering the living world, people and nature around them, experiencing other cultures and beliefs and thinking about different life events.

Children love to ask “why?” as they begin to work out the reasons for things changing, seasons, weather and animal behaviour. They are working out connections and differences between people and the environment and how they fit into it.



They enjoy finding out about their own family history and how their family celebrates. This encourages their natural sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around us.

Exploring the Natural World

If you have a garden or patio area try making a wildlife area to provide food, shelter, and a breeding ground for birds, snails, spiders, insects, and small invertebrates. Your child can then discover how a variety of things live and behave.

After it has rained, investigate puddles near your home – look for reflections and watch how the puddles shrink as the water evaporates. You could also have fun splashing in the puddles!



Help your child to plant a variety of seeds – flowers and vegetables – in your garden, hanging basket or window box. You can make growing beds using an old tyre, bucket, watering can, or wheelbarrow.



People and Communities

On your walk to nursery or when you are out and about talk about the features of the local area e.g. the different buildings, the jobs that people do etc.

Small world toys such as play people, animals, trains etc. provide fantastic opportunities for children to develop an understanding of different people, places and communities.



Share family photographs and talk about special events and occasions in your family e.g. birthdays, weddings, festivals. Sharing family photographs from the past also help children to develop a sense of time.

The CBeebies website also has lots of videos to help children learn about different festivals and special days.

Technology

Technology for young children is not only about tablets and computers it also encompasses everyday technology and how things work e.g. turning on the washing machine or the dishwasher, operating a remote-control device.

Technology also doesn't necessarily mean being sedentary, or excessive screen time, there are more active ways to use technology with your child. e.g. using a timer to time how fast you can run around the garden, record some music to dance to, join in with an online children's yoga class

The NSPCC website has advice and resources about keeping children safe online

The Early Years Curriculum

Not all children develop at the same rate but by the end of nursery most children will...

- Recognise and describe special times or events for family or friends
- Show interest in different occupations and ways of life indoors and outdoors
- Know some of the things that make them unique, and can talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends or family
- Comment and ask questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world
- Talk about why things happen and how things work
- Show care and concern for living things and the environment
- Begin to understand the effect their behaviour can have on the environment
- Know how to operate simple equipment, e.g. turns on CD player, uses a remote control, can navigate touch-capable technology with support
- Show an interest in technological toys with knobs or pulleys, real objects such as cameras, and touchscreen devices such as mobile phones and tablets
- Know that information can be retrieved from digital devices and the internet

Websites

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/let-s-celebrate>