

Understanding the World

Finding out about the world around them is what young children do very effectively when they investigate by touching, holding or pressing things and climbing on and jumping off things. Older children love to explore and investigate how and why things work and to test out their ideas of what will happen if they do particular things like pouring more and more water into a container.

Understanding of the world is about how children get to know about other people, the place where they live and about all aspects of the environment.

Understanding of the world is one of the four specific learning areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is broken down into three aspects:

People and communities

As children talk about their own home, community life they learn about the world around them. They find out about the past through talking to parents, grandparents and friends and they develop an interest in their own story as well as the stories in their family – this is the beginning of developing an understanding of the past and helps them to learn about how other people are different from them, yet share some of the same characteristics and ideas.



Technology

Technology has become commonplace for many families and children often see and use it quite naturally when they activate a toy such as an ambulance or police car to make a siren sound. We encourage children to think about why things happen and how things work.

Recognising the role of technology at home or in a setting is important because this helps children to identify the different types of technology and what they are useful for.



The World

Understanding the world develops as children begin to take notice of everything around them. Finding out about places begins initially when a child learns about their own home and the things nearby, then later as children notice things on journeys to and from home – such as the sequence of the traffic lights or names on street signs. Children's understanding is further developed at nursery in our extensive outdoor area which includes our fantastic forest, where children explore their natural environment, which includes trees, mud, grasses, flowers and the changing seasons throughout the year.