

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will learn:

- To explore indoor and outdoor environments through a nature walk
- To observe natural features using their senses
- To talk about what they see, hear, touch, and notice

So that they:

- Develop curiosity and awareness of the world around them
- Build language skills by describing their experiences
- Strengthen observation and communication skills through shared discussion

Literacy and Phonics

Children will learn:

- about dry and wet habitats.
- to make a range of choices between habitat objects or symbols related to the story of the day.
- to link graphemes (letters) with their corresponding sounds using visuals, actions, and tactile prompts.
- to blend a range simple CVC words (e.g. *cat, pin, dog*) and complete simple sentences through adult modelling and sensory props.

So that they:

- Develop and build on early language and literacy skills.
- Develop comprehension and vocabulary skills.
- Develop sentence formation through Labelling, Requesting, Commenting on the natural world.

Physical Development

Children will learn to:

- Develop gross motor skills through outdoor movement (animal actions, climbing, balancing).
- Strengthen fine motor skills using natural materials and simple tools.
- Build coordination through activities like pouring, digging, scooping, and threading.
- Explore healthy choices, staying active, safe, and caring for their bodies outdoors.

So that they:

- Improve strength, balance, and coordination through active play.
- Develop hand control for early writing and creative tasks.
- Build independence and confidence using tools and equipment.
- Understand the importance of physical activity, safety, and health.

Science

Children will learn to:

- Explore animals, plants, and natural materials, noticing features, colours, textures, and sounds.
- Investigate habitats (forest, ocean, polar, desert) and what living things need to survive.
- Observe natural changes (weather, seasons, melting ice, plant growth, water play).
- Use simple scientific skills: observing, questioning, predicting, and discussing findings.

So that they:

- Develop early scientific thinking through hands-on, sensory exploration.
- Understand that living things have needs linked to their habitats.
- Build curiosity and confidence to explore and notice change.
- Improve language for describing and comparing the natural world.

Communication and Language

Children will learn:

- To listen to and enjoy a range of stories about animals, nature, and different habitats
- To develop new vocabulary related to living things, environments, and homes around the world
- To communicate their ideas, thoughts, and feelings through words, gestures, signs, and visual supports
- To respond to questions and join in with repeated phrases, sounds, and actions from familiar stories

So that they:

- Build confidence in listening and attention during shared story times
- Improve understanding of the natural world and how living things depend on their habitats
- Develop expressive language skills to describe animals, places, and experiences
- Strengthen communication skills through discussion, storytelling, and imaginative play

The Natural World

Living things and their habitat



Understanding the World

Children will learn to:

- Explore hot and cold habitats (deserts, rainforests, polar regions) and how plants and animals adapt to survive.
- Investigate dry and wet habitats (ponds, rivers, gardens, sandy areas) and what living things need to grow.
- Learn about special dates (Dr Martin Luther King Day, Safer Internet Day, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day) and their cultural significance.

So that they:

- Understand how living things are suited to their environments.
- Develop observation and thinking skills by comparing habitats and climates.
- Build cultural awareness and respect for global celebrations.

Art and Design Technology

Children will learn:

- Explore natural materials (leaves, sticks, petals, stones) and use them to create a nature collage.
- Experiment with colours, textures, shapes, and patterns found in the natural world
- Develop creative expression by arranging, choosing, and combining materials in their own way.

So that they:

- Build confidence in expressing ideas through art and sensory exploration
- Strengthen fine motor skills through picking, placing, sticking, and arranging materials
- Develop an appreciation of nature and how it can inspire creative work

Maths

Children will learn to:

- Explore big and small by comparing the size of different animals, using words like *big, small, tall, short, and long*
- Sort, match, and order animals and natural objects by size, length, height, and simple measures (filling, pouring, weighing)
- Notice patterns in nature (stripes, spots, footprints) and count animals or natural items linked to our stories and theme.

So that they:

- Build confidence in comparing, sorting, and using early mathematical language
- Develop counting and problem-solving skills through hands-on, meaningful exploration
- Make strong connections between maths and the natural world through stories and sensory play.

Geography and History (Humanities)

Children will learn to:

- Explore different places and habitats (polar, forest, ocean, desert) and how animals live there.
- Talk about features of places, including weather, landscapes, and homes.
- Share memories and experiences to develop an early sense of time.
- Notice changes over time using stories, pictures, and simple timelines.

So that they:

- Understand similarities and differences between places.
- Build early geography and history vocabulary.
- Connect past and present in the natural world.
- Gain confidence talking about places, events, and changes.

How you can help at home...

- Explore outdoor textures, smells, and sounds on walks or in the garden. Talk about what your child sees, hears, and feels in nature—leaves, rain, wind, birds, insects.
- Share simple sensory nature stories using objects such as stones, shells, leaves, or water to help your child connect stories to real habitats.
- Use pictures, signs, or gestures to help your child choose between different animals or habitats (e.g., “forest” or “ocean,” “penguin” or “bird”).
- Celebrate your child’s interests—look at photos or simple books about animals and their homes and create a small “Nature Explorer” box with natural items they collect.