

Teaching and Learning

Child development - Understanding the world



“Children build on their experiences; the wider and deeper their exposure, the greater potential they have for secure development. Children need opportunities to practise what they know, to consolidate and apply learning from one context to another, and to develop new knowledge and skills. Children will build on experiences in the natural, built and virtual worlds.”

Birth to 5 Matters 2021

TASK 1

With a colleague using the development tool: [What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\): a guide for parents \(haringey.gov.uk\)](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/what-to-expect-in-the-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-a-guide-for-parents) sort the development points listed below into the following categories – Birth to 3 year olds, 3 and 4 year olds or 4 and 5 year olds:

- I like to explore natural materials, indoors and outdoors. Such as wet and dry sand, water, and paint.
- I can describe what I see, hear, feel when I am outdoors.
- I can talk about what I explore and investigate using a wide range of words.
- I understand that the seasons change and have an effect on the natural world.

- I explore and investigate collections of natural materials with similar and/or different properties.
- I like to explore objects with different textures, sounds, smells, and tastes.
- I enjoy exploring the natural world such as splashing in puddles, looking for worms and minibeasts.
- I can talk about the differences between materials and changes I notice, e.g. when cooking.

TASK 2

Watch the short video clip of 3 pre-school children exploring ice

[Focused Observations Chapter 5 Video 14 - YouTube](#)

With a partner or within your team answer and reflect on the following questions:

- With a focus on 'Understanding the World' what learning did the children demonstrate during this activity? Did you notice any differences in their ability?
- What skills did the children already have which enabled them join in with this activity?
- What other areas of learning did you observe development in?
- Using the 'What to expect in the EYFS' guidance tool, where would you assess each child in Understanding the World? And why?