

Progression of Enquiry Skills from Early Years Foundation Stage to Key Stage One

EYFS	Key Stage One
Show curiosity about objects, events and people Playing & Exploring Questions why things happen Speaking: 30-50 months	Explore the world around them and raise their own simple questions
Engage in open-ended activity Playing & Exploring	Experience different types of science enquiries, including practical activities
Take a risk, engage in new experiences and learn by trial and error Playing & Exploring	Begin to recognise different ways in which they might answer scientific questions
Find ways to solve problems / find new ways to do things / test their ideas Creating & Thinking Critically	Carry out simple tests
Develop ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect Creating & Thinking Critically Know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things ELG: The World	Use simple features to compare objects, materials and living things and, with help, decide how to sort and group them (identifying and classifying)
Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world The World: 30-50 months	Ask people questions and use simple secondary sources to find answers
Closely observes what animals, people and vehicles do The World 8-20 months Use senses to explore the world around them Playing & Exploring	Observe closely using simple equipment With help, observe changes over time
Make links and notice patterns in their experience Creating & Thinking Critically	With guidance, they should begin to notice patterns and relationships
Choose the resources they need for their chosen activities ELG: Self Confidence & Self Awareness Handle equipment and tools effectively ELG: Moving & Handling	Use simple measurements and equipment (e.g. hand lenses, egg timers) to gather data
Create simple representations of events, people and objects Being Imaginative: 40-60+ months	Record simple data
Answer how and why questions about their experiences ELG: Understanding Make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes ELG: The World	Use their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions Talk about what they have found out and how they found it out
Develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events ELG: Speaking Builds up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experience Understanding: 30-50 months	With help, they should record and communicate their findings in a range of ways and begin to use simple scientific language