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**How Children Learn About Science in EYFS**

**Educational Program:**

**Understanding the World**

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children’s personal experiences increase their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children’s vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

**Early Learning Goals that link to science:**

**ELG: The Natural World (NW)**

Children at the expected level of development will:

* Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.
* Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
* Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

**Science in EYFS at Clapgate:**

Science is an integral part of the EYFS curriculum. The children are exposed to Scientific language and have regular opportunities to use the five enquiry types through whole class lessons, small group activities and engaging continuous provision.

Scientific experiences and opportunities are carefully planned from the objectives set out in the Early Years Framework, which underpin the curriculum planning for children in nursery and reception. Science significantly contributes to the area of ‘Understanding of the World’, particularly towards the ELG for ‘The Natural World’, by ensuring children develop early scientific ideas and processes through hands-on activities, practical exploration and outdoor experiences. These experiences will be clearly presented to the children as scientific through the use of ‘Science Sam’. The children will begin to identify what enquiry type they will need for each activity, and will be able to apply their scientific skills and practice their scientific vocabulary.

The children in EYFS will:

* Be encouraged to use their senses to explore the world around them
* Create observational drawings of plants, animals and humans
* Observe and discuss the changes that occur in each season
* Research information when writing fact files
* Learn about the life cycle of animals by observing chicks hatching and caterpillars turning into butterflies
* Explore the concepts of growth, change and decay through planting
* Carry out exciting experiments that answer questions such as “How do penguins survive in the icy water?”, “What do plants need to grow?”, “What is the quickest way to melt an ice cube?”
* Predict, observe, record and discuss