

Supporting Your 3 - 5 Year Old Child in

Simple Science

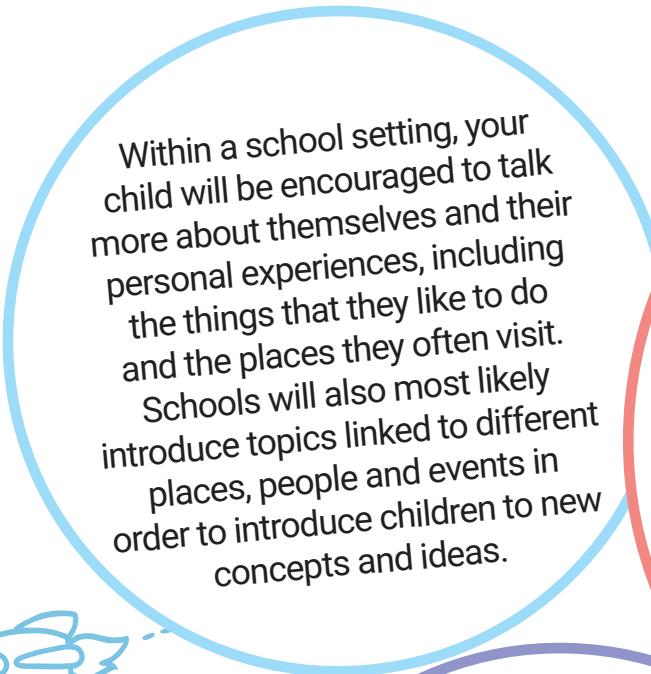
Parent Advice Booklet

What Is This Guide?

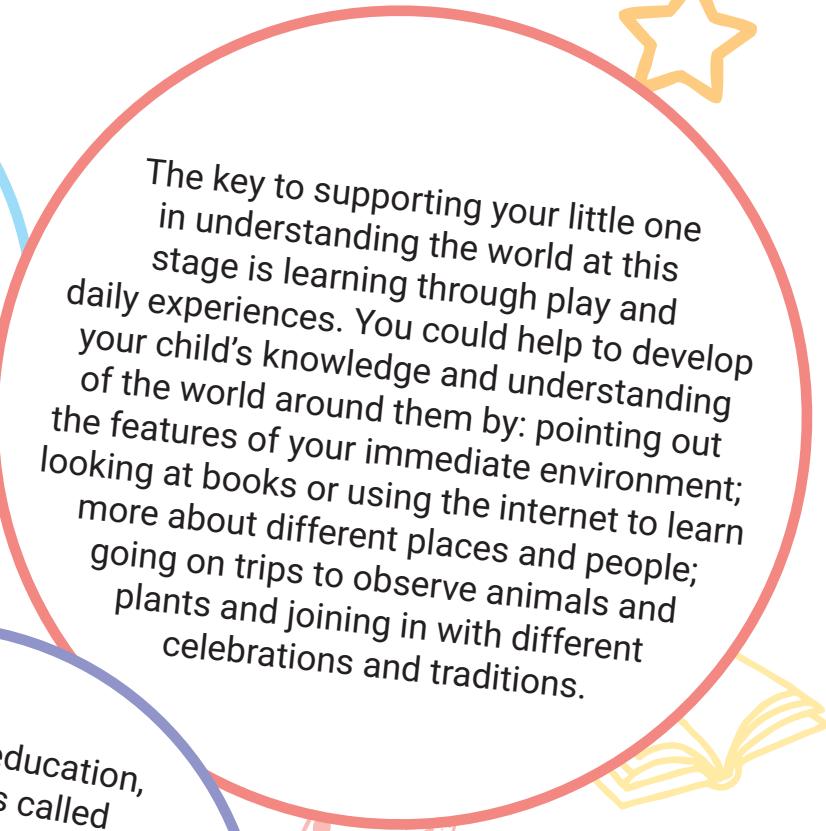
In the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (known as EYFS), there are some expectations laid out for how children generally develop in exploring the world around them. This guide can help you understand what that development might look like for your child and how you can help them.

This guide breaks down the EYFS framework into sections and statements, providing you with simple explanations of what we call 'Simple Science' and how it typically looks for this age group. Each area has ideas for supporting your child through fun and engaging activities, whether your child is only just beginning to show an interest in different people and places or is able to share their knowledge about a particular topic or theme.

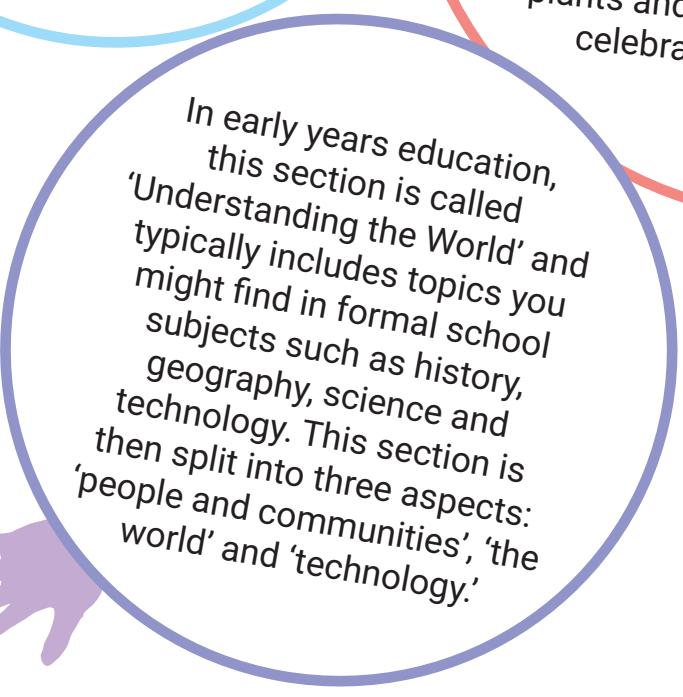
Rather than a list of must-do activities, you can dip in and out of these prompts and ideas based on your child's current interests and appropriate stage of development. You can visit the **parent section** of the Twinkl site for even more resources to support your child in physical development, as well as all other areas of learning. Either search for keywords used in this guide or explore more in the early years section.



Within a school setting, your child will be encouraged to talk more about themselves and their personal experiences, including the things that they like to do and the places they often visit. Schools will also most likely introduce topics linked to different places, people and events in order to introduce children to new concepts and ideas.



The key to supporting your little one in understanding the world at this stage is learning through play and daily experiences. You could help to develop your child's knowledge and understanding of the world around them by: pointing out the features of your immediate environment; looking at books or using the internet to learn more about different places and people; going on trips to observe animals and plants and joining in with different celebrations and traditions.



In early years education, this section is called 'Understanding the World' and typically includes topics you might find in formal school subjects such as history, geography, science and technology. This section is then split into three aspects: 'people and communities', 'the world' and 'technology'.



Read this guide for practical ideas and advice on how you can further support your child at home in understanding the world.

People and Communities

Children learn through their relationships and interactions with other people and by joining in with family events. Most of what they know about people and communities will likely stem from the information shared by their parents or guardians. Over time, your child may become more curious about their history and where they came from. As they begin to develop, so will their understanding of who they are and what makes them unique; they may also build on their knowledge of other people, places and cultures, both in their local area and in the rest of the world.

At 3 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

showing interest in the lives of people who are familiar to them.

showing interest in different occupations and ways of life.

knowing some of the things that make them unique, and talking about some of the similarities and differences in relation to their friends or family.

enjoying joining in with family customs and routines.

talking about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members.

understanding that other children don't always enjoy the same things, and being sensitive to this.

knowing about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

To support this, you could...

ask your child questions about their school friends; can they tell you something interesting about them?

talk to your child about your own or close family members' occupations. Ask what they might like to do and get books or look online for more information about occupations that interest your child.

read some books about being unique or different to prompt a discussion about what makes your child, and other family members, special and unique.

notice how your child reacts to family events, festivals and holidays. Can they join in and do they like these types of celebrations?

use photographs of past or current events and encourage your child to discuss what they liked, who they saw and how they felt during that time or place.

make a list of the things you like and dislike as a family. Are there any similarities? Does your child understand that we're all different and that's okay?

look at books or images of people from around the world with your child to encourage discussion about similarities and differences between different cultures.

People and Communities

How is your little one progressing with their understanding of people and communities?



We Are All Different eBook



Celebrating Diversity

Talking to your child regularly about what they like and are good at, can help build their self-awareness and confidence. Model explaining the things that you like and are good at and encourage your child to think about new things that they may want to try next.

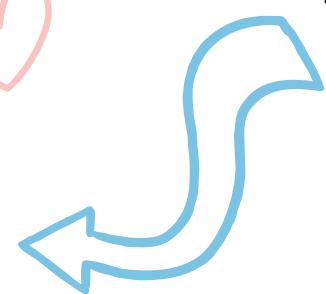


Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?

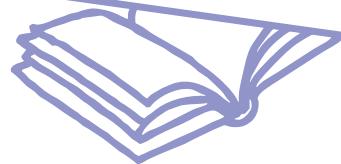
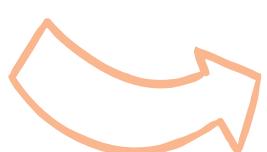
Why not encourage your child to help you organise a family party? They could help to create invitations and decorations, come up with ideas for food and help with shopping?

People and Communities

Journal nice moments
or record key
dates here:



Stick a photo of your child here:



The World

The world to your child, at this current stage of their development, may seem quite small. Their world may be your house, street or school and will be largely populated by their family, a handful of friends and the dog. Your child may be familiar with the types of vehicles that pass by your home, the street signs they walk past each day and the people who work in the local supermarket. At school, children will be encouraged to learn about their local environment and will begin exploring the wider world and the people who live in it. This learning is supported by photographs, videos, music, food and stories, providing your child with a greater understanding of how places differ and change over time.

At 3 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

commenting and asking questions about aspects of their familiar world, such as their home or local area.

make a point of praising your child when they ask curious questions, e.g. 'what a great question! I'm not sure about the answer, should we find out together?'

talking about some of the things they have observed, such as plants, animals and everyday objects.

provide your child with first-hand experiences where they can observe animals and nature, building up their knowledge and vocabulary of these things.

talking about why things happen and how things work.

model explaining why things happen or work during everyday activities, e.g. how the toaster works or why rainbows appear.

developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.

point out changes in things within your environment, e.g. bananas ripening, a growing plant and the change in seasons.

showing care and concern for living things and the environment.

model being kind and caring towards your environment, e.g. recycling, not wasting water, being loving towards people and pets and taking care of your belongings to instill this kind of behaviour in your child.

looking closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.

give your child opportunities to record their observations of a growing seed or pet through drawings, photographs and notes.

knowing about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

look at books or images of people from around the world with your child to encourage discussion about similarities and differences between different cultures.

The World

At 3 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

talking about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.

making observations of animals and plants and explaining why some things occur or change.

To support this, you could...

talk about the differences in climate and culture when looking at atlases and information books with your child. Encourage thinking about similarities and differences between two different places.

go on a visit to a farm, zoo, park, garden centre or butterfly farm to encourage talk about different kinds of animals and plants.

The World



Life Cycle of a Flower

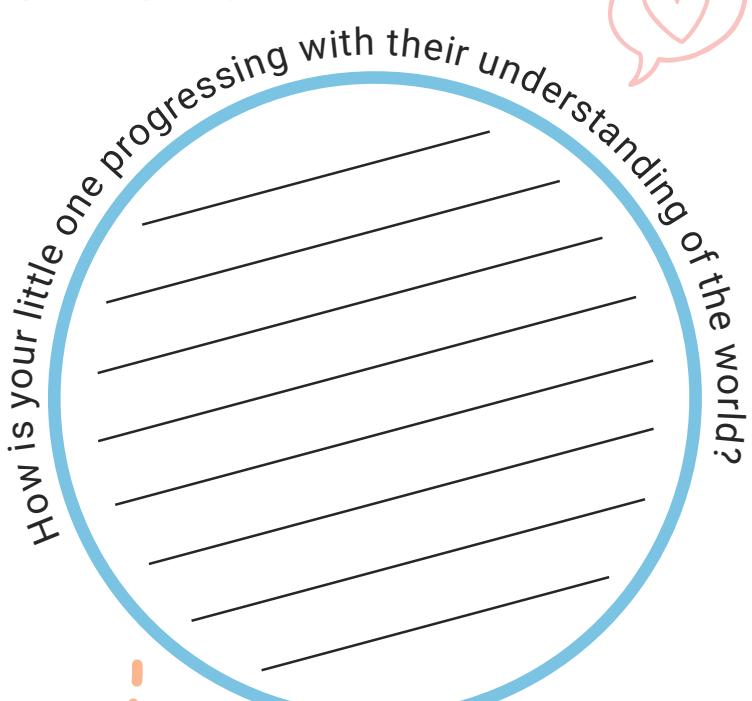


World Map

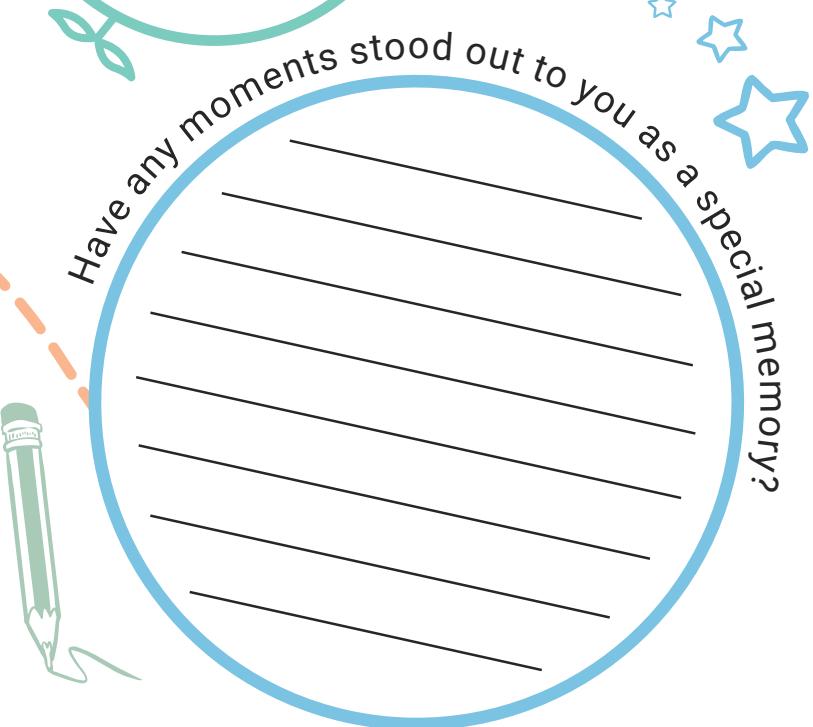
Going on a family visit to a place, such as a zoo, farm or nature reserve, can be a rich learning experience for your young child. There's so much to see, from mammals to mini beasts, trees and plants - the world is filled with incredible and extraordinary things, so why not get exploring?



All About Endangered Species PowerPoint

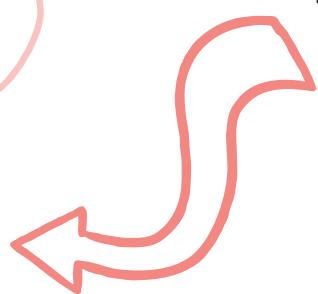


Explore growth and change through some planting. You could plant sunflower seeds in pots, bulbs outside, grow herbs by a window or even start a vegetable patch.

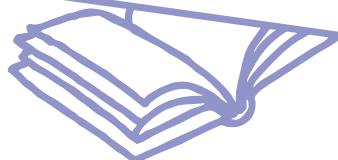


The World

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Technology

Technology has become a bigger feature of many homes within the last decade and many houses now have more technology than ever before. It's important that your child can identify different types of technology within your home and that they are beginning to develop an understanding of their uses; this will help your child to know how they can use technology for a specific purpose in the future.

At 3 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

knowing how to operate simple equipment, e.g. turning on a CD player and using a remote control.

allow your child to press buttons on remote controls, road crossings and lifts.

showing an interest in technological toys with knobs or pulleys, or real objects such as cameras or mobile devices.

provide your child with toys which have an element of technology, such as robots, pretend phones or child-friendly devices.

knowing that information can be retrieved from computers.

suggest using a computer or tablet to find the answer to one of your child's curious questions.

completing a simple program on a computer.

allow your child to play an age-appropriate educational game on a tablet or computer, with supervision.

recognising that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools.

talk about the different types of technology you have at home and their uses, including microwaves, radios or cameras.

selecting and using technology for particular purposes.

encourage your child to use a tablet, with adult support, to look at an image before building or drawing it, or use a search engine to find out some information about a particular interest.



Technology

How is your little one progressing with their understanding of technology?



Selecting the right kind of app or educational website can enhance your child's learning in a particular area in a fun and engaging way. Always remember to supervise your child when using any online programme and ensure that they know the rules regarding using this type of technology. You might like to use a timer to set an appropriate amount of time for your child to use a computer or tablet.



Junk Recycling Game

Why not get some educational apps for your child to interact with? Be sure to choose games, ebooks and interactive experiences, which are age-appropriate and have been fully checked first.



Frog Counting Game



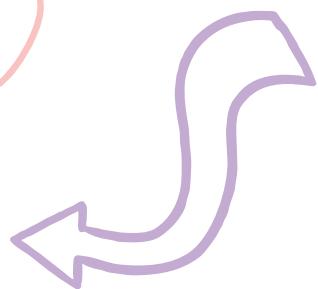
Alphabet Jigsaw Game

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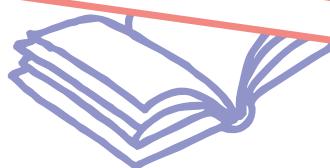


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Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

