What does Understanding the World look like in Early Years at the NCEA Trust?

At NCEA Trust we want children to be able to understand and make sense of their world and people who live and work in their community. To help the children to be able to do this, we give them opportunities to have first-hand experiences exploring their local environment. They learn about the changes in seasons, identifying plants and animals. This is then extended for children to begin to understand the wider world and look at similarities and differences in other environments.

As well as similarities and differences in people's lives and to develop positive attitudes towards others, they will begin to recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrations. Children will use books, photographs and artefacts to gain an understanding of the past and how they can relate these to their own experiences. They will be taught about growing and life cycles as well as the properties of different materials. They will have the opportunity to explore how different things work and learn about different forces.

All of these different aspects will help them to understand the world more, by extending their knowledge and help them to develop new and specific vocabulary.

Understanding the World in our 2-Year Old provision:

In our 2 Year old provision children explore natural materials indoors and outdoors. They experience the natural environment looking at plants, mini beasts, changes in the weather and seasons. We give them time to explore and test out their ideas.

They have sensory play and use small world toys as well as role play activities to understand their world more and develop their vocabulary.

They will begin to notice similarities and differences between themselves and others, their family and other people's families. Sharing photographs, books and play materials that reflect diversity will enable them to have positive attitudes about the differences between people. We also enjoy celebrating festivals from different cultures.