



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 Nursery provision:

In Nursery children use their senses to explore the natural world and are encouraged to look closely and talk about what they can see, hear, feel and touch. They will be taught to look after living things and understand the key features of plant and animal life cycles.

The children look at different materials and investigate what happens in different situations. They have time to talk about their own family and what they were like when they were a baby as well as looking at other people's families talking about the similarities and differences.

We look at different countries using photographs and books and different props to help us to investigate, comment and ask questions. We think about the jobs different people do and even try some of them out for ourselves.