



Early Years Parent Understanding the World Guide



Understanding the World

This area of learning relates to how your child:

- Understands past and present events in their lives
- Knows about similarities and differences between themselves and others – families, friends, special events, festivals
- Knows about places, objects, materials and living things – plants and animals
- Knows about their own environment and changes that occur
- Understands that a range of technology is available in places such as their home and school

Activities at Home

- Talk about your family, culture, religion especially at times of celebration – birthdays, weddings, Naming Ceremonies etc.
- Find books and stories that reflect different cultures
- In supermarkets or at meal times talk about food from different countries/cultures
- Talk about similarities and differences e.g. hair colour, gender
- When you are out and about use all your senses to explore – see/hear/smell/taste/touch
- Look for patterns and shapes
- Make collections – shells, pebbles, autumn leaves
- On journeys, visits or local walks encourage your child to notice objects and features around them
- Provide 'Small World' toys to play with e.g. Farm, Town, Zoo
- Talk about what your child is doing as they investigate toys with technological features - 'On' and 'Off' buttons, cameras, keyboards, CD Players, torches
- Age appropriate computer programmes

