



Nursery Knowledge and Skills Progression for Understanding the World

Aspect	All About Me	Starry Night/Sparkle and Shine	Once Upon a Time	Ready, Steady, Grow	Animal Safari/Creep, Crawl, Wriggle	On the Beach/Moving On
Past and Present	Skills Progression • Begin to notice differences between themselves and others. •Talk about family members using simple words.	Skills Progression •Talk about simple past events (last week, birthday). • Recognise routines and celebrations. •Listen to stories about people from the past and notice differences. • Begin to describe what happens at night vs. day.	Skills Progression •Enjoy listening to stories from the past and compare them with today.	Skills Progression •Begin to notice how living things grow. Talk about babies, animals, and plants.	Skills Progression •Begin to notice animals from the past (e.g., dinosaurs) and today.	•Talk about past experiences at the seaside.
	Key Knowledge I have a family and I am growing. People have different homes and family members.	Key Knowledge •Some events happened before now. Celebrations are special times. • People used to use candles or lanterns before electric lights. • Some people work at night (nurse, baker, firefighter).	Key Knowledge •Stories can be about things that happened long ago or now. •People lived differently in the past.	Key Knowledge •Living things grow and change over time. •Plants and animals need care.	Key Knowledge •Some animals lived long ago and are now extinct.	Key Knowledge •People visit the seaside for fun. •Things have changed over time (clothes, transport).





People, Culture & Commu nities	Skills Progression •Explore home, school, and familiar places. •Show awareness of similarities and differences in others.	Skills Progression •Learn about festivals of light and other celebrations (Bonfire Night) •Talk about their own experiences. • Show interest in people's jobs, especially those who help at night.	Skills Progression •Listen to stories from different cultures. •Talk about characters and their roles.	Skills Progression •Talk about people who help us stay healthy. • Explore where food comes from.	Skills Progression Learn about animals and minibeasts in different places. Talk about caring for animals.	Skills Progression Notice people living/working by the sea. Talk about changes as they grow.
	Key Knowledge •My community includes home and school. • People live and work in different places. •Everyone is unique.	Key Knowledge •People celebrate in different ways. • Light is used in celebrations to make them special. • Some people work at night (nurse, baker, firefighter). • Know that families and communities celebrate Bonfire Night in different ways (fireworks, sparklers, bonfires). • Know that people gather together to celebrate safely.	Key Knowledge •Stories teach us lessons. • People in different places have different stories and ways of living.	Key Knowledge •People grow food in gardens/farms. •Eating different foods helps us stay healthy.	Key Knowledge •Animals live in different countries and climates. •People care for animals in different ways. •We can help animals by looking after their habitats.	Key Knowledge • Beaches have sand, sea, shells, and cliffs. •Children grow and learn new skills over time.
The Natural World	Skills Progression •Explore the environment with senses.	Skills Progression •Notice day and night, light and dark. •Explore sources of light	Skills Progression •Notice and describe settings in stories. •Explore natural	Skills Progression Observe seeds and plants growing. Talk about what	Skills Progression#• •Name animals and minibeasts. •Describe where they	Skills Progression •Explore sand, water, floating/sinking. Investigate melting ice.





•Begin to notice seasonal changes.	safely. • Observe, explore, and talk about nocturnal animals and their features. • Sort animals by when they are awake (day/night). • Show care and respect for living things. Notice and talk about changes they see outside (leaves falling, bare trees, icy mornings). • Begin to use words like cold, frosty, windy, dark, snowy	objects linked to stories. •Identify common animals and their homes (birds → nest, rabbits → burrow). •Understand what animals need to live (food, water, shelter).	plants and animals need.	live. • Observe simple life cycles.	
Key Knowledge I can see and touch things around me. Weather changes affect what I do. I have a body that helps me move and explore.	Key Knowledge •Sun gives light and warmth. •Some lights come from lamps and candles. • Night is darker than day. • Nocturnal animals are awake at night; diurnal animals are awake in the day. • Examples: owl, fox, bat, hedgehog. • Animals live in different habitats (garden, wood, cave). Know that autumn comes	Key Knowledge •Forests, rivers, and gardens are different environments. •Natural objects like wood and leaves come from these environments. •Animals live in environments suitable for their needs. •Different stories feature different animals, reflecting	Key Knowledge •Plants need water, light, and warmth. •Animals need food, water, and shelter. •Spring brings new life.	 Key Knowledge Animals and minibeasts live where they have food, water, and shelter. Some animals eat plants, some eat other animals, some eat both. 	 Key Knowledge Some things float, some sink. Water can change from solid to liquid. We care for the environment by keeping beaches and oceans clean.





before winter. • Know that the weather gets colder and the days get shorter. • Know that some trees lose their leaves in autumn. • Know that winter can bring frost, ice, and	local environments.		
sometimes snow.			