

Progression of Vocabulary in Science

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), science falls under the area of 'Understanding the World'. It involves providing children with the language to describe their observations, curiosity and experiences, moving children from 'looking' to 'observing' and from 'doing' to 'exploring':

Tier 1: The 'everyday' language	Tier 2: The 'thinking' language: academic	Tier 3: The 'scientific' labels: contextual
big, small, hot, cold, fast, slow, push, pull, plant, animal, water, sun, green, leaf, flower, dirt, water, dog, cat, fish, eyes, hair, skin, move, eat, hard, soft, shiny, thick, wet, dry, dark, loud, ice, steam, bubble, sun, rain, snow, moon, stars	observe, predict, compare, change, same, different, observe, grow, health, die, identify, group, sense, test, find, choose, material, predict, distance, move, stop, start, notice, before, after, reason, heat, record, pattern, season, cycle, world	root, stem, seed, bulb, petal, sprout, grow, beak, wing, fin, fur, scales, gills, habitat, smooth, rough, sink, float, melt, freeze, solid, liquid, transparent, opaque, waterproof, absorbent, rough, surface, shadow, magnet, autumn, winter, spring, summer, temperature

In Key Stage 1 and 2, vocabulary is organised into 3 tiers across the three strands of science:

Tier 1: The 'everyday language'

Tier 2: The 'academic' language

Tier 3: The 'technical' language

Biology:

Plants						
<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
<p>Tier 1: plant, water, sun, green, leaf, flower, dirt</p> <p>Tier 2: notice, compare, grow, die, cycle</p> <p>Tier 3: root, stem, seed, bulb, sprout, grow</p>	<p>Tier 1: flower, leaf, tree</p> <p>Tier 2: observe, label, same</p> <p>Tier 3: deciduous, evergreen, root, stem, petal, trunk</p>	<p>Tier 1: seed, grow, water</p> <p>Tier 2: germinate, survival, result</p> <p>Tier 3: bulb, shoot</p>	<p>Tier 1: soil, stem roots</p> <p>Tier 2: function, transport, role</p> <p>Tier 3: pollination, seed dispersal, nutrients</p>			

Living things and their habitats						
<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
<p>Tier 1: hot, cold, plant, animal</p> <p>Tier 2: observe, compare, same, different, identify, group, world</p> <p>Tier 3: habitat, temperature</p>		<p>Tier 1: alive, dead, wild, garden</p> <p>Tier 2: compare, match, habitat</p> <p>Tier 3: habitat, micro-habitat, food chain, source, urban</p>		<p>Tier 1: place, world</p> <p>Tier 2: classification key, impact</p> <p>Tier 3: environment, vertebrate, invertebrate</p>	<p>Tier 1: egg, seed, life, life cycle</p> <p>Tier 2: reproduce, sexual, asexual</p> <p>Tier 3: pollen, stamen, germination</p>	<p>Tier 1: group, type, tiny</p> <p>Tier 2: system., Linnaean, kingdom</p> <p>Tier 3: micro-organism, fungi, species</p>

Animals, including humans

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<p>Tier 1: big, small, animal, dog, cat, fish, eyes, hair, skin, move, eat</p> <p>Tier 2: compare, change, grow, health, die, group, sense, cycle</p> <p>Tier 3: beak, wing, fin, fur scales, gills</p>	<p>Tier 1: body, head, tail</p> <p>Tier 2: identify, group, notice</p> <p>Tier 3: fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore</p>	<p>Tier 1: baby, adult, clean</p> <p>Tier 2: sequence, health, stage</p> <p>Tier 3: offspring, exercise, hygiene, life cycle</p>	<p>Tier 1: bones, food, move</p> <p>Tier 2: support, protect, identify</p> <p>Tier 3: skeleton, muscle, nutrition, joint</p>	<p>Tier 1: teeth, stomach, eat</p> <p>Tier 2: function, digestive, model</p> <p>Tier 3: enzyme, oesophagus, canine, molar</p>	<p>Tier 1: old, young, grow</p> <p>Tier 2: data, analysis, gestation</p> <p>Tier 3: puberty, foetus, hormone</p>	<p>Tier 1: heart, blood, breath</p> <p>Tier 2: circulatory, transport, vessel</p> <p>Tier 3: oxygenated, artery, vein, vessel, pulse</p>

Evolution and Inheritance

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
						<p>Tier 1: bones, change, family</p> <p>Tier 2: adaptation, inheritance</p> <p>Tier 3: variation, natural selection</p>

Chemistry:

Materials						
<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
<p>Tier 1: hot, cold, thick, wet, dry</p> <p>Tier 2: same, different, group, find, choose, material</p> <p>Tier 3: smooth, rough, sink, float, melt, freeze, solid, liquid, waterproof, absorbent</p>	<p>Tier 1: shiny, hard, soft, bendy</p> <p>Tier 2: object, material, test</p> <p>Tier 3: transparent, waterproof, dull</p>	<p>Tier 1: shape, twist, push</p> <p>Tier 2: suitable, property, affect</p> <p>Tier 3: squashing, bending, twisting, stretching, opaque, flexible</p>		<p>Tier 1: steam, ice, puddle</p> <p>Tier 2: state, process, measure</p> <p>Tier 3: evaporation, condensation, particle</p>	<p>Tier 1: mix, disappear, melt</p> <p>Tier 2: dissolve, solution, soluble</p> <p>Tier 3: reversible, irreversible, thermal</p>	

Rocks						
<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
			<p>Tier 1: stone, soil, cave</p> <p>Tier 2: classify, layers, origin</p> <p>Tier 3: sedimentary, igneous, fossil</p>			

Physics:

Seasonal Changes						
<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Tier 1: hot, cold, sun, rain, snow Tier 2: notice, before, after, pattern, season Tier 3: autumn, winter, spring, summer, temperature	Tier 1: sun, rain, snow, wind Tier 2: record, change, pattern Tier 3: season, autumn, winter, spring, summer					

Earth and Space						
<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
					Tier 1: Sun, Moon, Earth Tier 2: orbit, rotation, axis Tier 3: solar system, celestial, spherical	

Light						
EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Tier 1: light, dark Tier 2: observe, choose, Tier 3: sun, moon, stars, shadow, transparent, opaque			Tier 1: mirror, dark, bright Tier 2: reflect, block, evidence Tier 3: shadow, source, opaque			Tier 1: rainbow, beam, glass Tier 2: ray, refraction, spectrum Tier 3: periscope, retina, concave/convex

Forces						
EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Tier 1 fast, slow, push, pull, bubble Tier 2: predict, test, distance, move, stop, start, record Tier 3: surface, magnet			Tier 1: magnet, push, pull Tier 2: contact, attraction, force Tier 3: friction, magnetic pole, repel		Tier 1: heavy, drop, slow Tier 2: resistance, gravity, effect Tier 3: buoyancy, lever, pulley, gear	

Sound

<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
				Tier 1: loud, quiet, high Tier 2: vibration, distance, pitch, volume Tier 3: amplitude, frequency, insulation		

Electricity

<u>EYFS</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
				Tier 1: wire, light, battery Tier 2: circuit, component, flow Tier 3: series circuit, cell, switch, conductor, insulator		Tier 1: switch, bulb, power Tier 2: voltage, resistance, symbol Tier 3: amps, filament