

SPECIFIC AREA 3

Policy Statement: Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Early Learning Goals should normally be achieved when a child completes their first year in a Reception class, around the time of their fifth birthday. By the end of the Reception year children should be able to:

Aspect 1: People and communities

- talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members
- know that other children do not always enjoy the same things, and be sensitive to this
- know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions

Aspect 2: The world

- know about similarities and differences in relations to places, objects, materials and living things
- talk about features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another
- make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes

Aspect 3: Technology

- recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools
- select and use technology for particular purposes

Development Matters gives detailed guidelines on the expected developmental progression which supports children in working towards the Early Learning Goals. In our Montessori settings we provide the following activities to support them:

Aspect 1: People and communities

At Horsham Montessori each child:

- learns about different cultures and beliefs through artefacts, stories, games, music, dressing up clothes in role play scenarios, **and celebration foods from various festivals.**
- learns about their local area through outings and visits from the Neighbourhood Police Team and others
- builds a sense of connection to all human beings, and gains a sense of cosmic community
- makes observations of changes in the weather and the seasons when visiting the allotments and the park, learns why some things occur, and talks about changes

Aspect 2: The world

At Horsham Montessori each child:

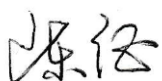
- finds many activities to develop their senses and to find out about materials
- has many opportunities to observe and investigate nature
- will gain an in-depth understanding of life on planet earth through hands-on activities about continents, elements, solar system, etc.
- takes part in activities to care for the environment

Aspect 3: Technology

- finds ample opportunities to construct and design
- is introduced to a wide range of science activities
- learns how to use information technology sensibly

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Signature:



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 Understanding the World**

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L&DP1_UW	Created	01/12/2013	Thea Bredie
L&DP2_UW	Reviewed & updated	18/01/2015	Thea Bredie
L&DP3_UW	Reviewed & updated	04/01/2016	Thea Bredie
L&DP4_UW	Reviewed & updated	04/04/2017	Jacky Brown

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