

# Early Years

## Explorify planning support



| Curriculum statements  | Explorify activities                | Details   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Animals</b>   |                                     |   |
| <p>Name and describe some plants and animals children are likely to see, encouraging children to recognise familiar plants and animals whilst outside.</p> <p><b>Development Matters - England</b></p> <p>I have observed living things in the environment over time and am becoming aware of how they depend on each other.</p> <p><b>Scotland</b></p> <p>I can recognise that plants and animals are living things which grow.</p> <p><b>Wales</b></p> | <a href="#">Black tips</a>          | ZIZO Dog  |
|  | <a href="#">Stripes and patches</a> | ZIZO Dog  |
|  | <a href="#">Wavy hair</a>           | ZIZO Donkey   |
|  | <a href="#">Soft nuzzle</a>         | ZIZO Donkey   |
|  | <a href="#">Watery home</a>         | ZIZO Frog   |
|  | <a href="#">Spiky spikes</a>        | ZIZO Hedgehog   |
|  | <a href="#">Grooved lines</a>       | ZIZO Goat   |
|  | <a href="#">Fluffy and ginger</a>   | ZIZO Horse  |
|  | <a href="#">Speckled and soft</a>   | ZIZO Horse  |
|  | <a href="#">Brown hair</a>          | ZIZO Rabbit   |
|  | <a href="#">Fluffy and white</a>    | ZIZO Rabbit   |
|  | <a href="#">Curly locks</a>         | ZIZO Sheep  |
|  | <a href="#">Green scales</a>        | ZIZO Snake  |
|  | <a href="#">Small and hairy</a>     | ZIZO Spider   |
|  | <a href="#">Thin strands</a>        | ZIZO Squirrel   |
|  | <a href="#">Tangled up</a>          | ZIZO Squirrel   |
|  | <a href="#">Shiny sections</a>      | ZIZO Worm   |
|  | <a href="#">Dawn to dusk</a>        | LWCY Birds  |
|  | <a href="#">Out and about</a>       | LWCY Woodpecker, aeroplane, person walking through leaves and birds singing |
|  | <a href="#">Life in the wild</a>    | LWCY Elephant, rattle snake and chimpanzee                                  |
|  | <a href="#">Old MacDonald</a>       | LWCY Cow, sheep and pig   |

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|  | <a href="#">Part of the family</a>  | LWCY | Cat, dog and horse  |
|  | <a href="#">Foxing around</a>       | WGO  | Fox   |
|  | <a href="#">Magpie feeding</a>      | WGO  | Magpie  |
|  | <a href="#">Relaxing rabbit</a>     | WGO  | Wild rabbits  |
|  | <a href="#">Water birds</a>         | WGO  | Duck, swan and moorhen  |
|  | <a href="#">Woodlice exploring</a>  | WGO  | Woodlice  |
|  | <a href="#">Slugs galore</a>        | WGO  | Slugs   |
|  | <a href="#">Caterpillar changes</a> | WJH  | Butterfly lifecycle   |
|  | <a href="#">Flourishing flock</a>   | WJH  | Lamb to sheep   |
|  | <a href="#">Egg, chick, chicken</a> | WJH  | Chicken lifecycle   |
|  | <a href="#">What's in the pond?</a> | WJH  | Frog lifecycle  |
|  | <b>Changing materials</b>           |      |   |
| <p>Provide children with opportunities to change materials from one state to another.</p> <p><b>Development Matters – England</b></p> <p>Discuss changes in materials in real contexts such as cooking, freezing and making dough</p> <p><b>Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>I can explore the properties of materials and choose different materials for a particular use.</p> <p><b>Wales</b></p> | <a href="#">Oozing with flavour</a> | ZIZO | Pizza   |
|  | <a href="#">Party time</a>          | ZIZO | Jelly and ice-cream   |
|  | <a href="#">Sparkly brown</a>       | ZIZO | Leaf with frost on  |
|  | <a href="#">Bubble fun</a>          | WGO  | Children making bubbles   |
|  | <a href="#">Melting moments</a>     | WGO  | Candle, butter on a jacket potato and a child with a chocolate button |
|  | <a href="#">Fairy cakes</a>         | WJH  | All the stages of making a cake                                       |
|  | <a href="#">An icy treat</a>        | WJH  | Ice lolly melting   |
|  | <a href="#">Let it snow</a>         | WJH  | Snowman   |
| <b>Dinosaurs</b>   |                                     |      |   |
| <p>I can talk about science stories to develop my understanding of science and the world around me.</p> <p><b>Scotland</b></p>   | <a href="#">Stomp and chomp</a>     | ZIZO | A Patagotitan   |
| <b>Electricity</b>   |                                     |      |   |
| Explore how things work.   | <a href="#">Fingers ready</a>       | ZIZO | Beebot  |

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| <b>Development Matters – England</b><br><br>I know how to stay safe when using electricity. I have helped to make a display to show the importance of electricity in our daily lives.<br><b>Scotland</b>  | <a href="#">Time to unwind</a>       | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Remote control  |
|   | <a href="#">Home help</a>            | <b>LWCYH</b> | Hairdryer, Hoover and toaster   |
| <b>Food</b>   |                                      |              |   |
| Talk about healthy eating and habits for life.<br><b>Northern Ireland</b><br><br>I am beginning to make connections between my diet and my physical health and well-being.<br><b>Wales</b>  | <a href="#">Sweet and shiny</a>      | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Banana  |
|   | <a href="#">Orange and tasty</a>     | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Carrot  |
|   | <a href="#">Oozing with flavour</a>  | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Pizza   |
|   | <a href="#">Party time</a>           | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Jelly and ice cream   |
|   | <a href="#">In the field</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Tractor   |
|   | <a href="#">Melting moments</a>      | <b>WGO</b>   | Candle, butter on a jacket potato and a child with a chocolate button |
|   | <a href="#">Apple orchard</a>        | <b>WJH</b>   | Apple lifecycle   |
|   | <a href="#">Fairy cakes</a>          | <b>WJH</b>   | All the stages of making a cake                                       |
|   | <a href="#">An icy treat</a>         | <b>WJH</b>   | Ice lolly melting   |
| <b>Forces</b>   |                                      |              |   |
| Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.<br><b>Development Matters – England</b><br><br>Through everyday experiences and play with a variety of toys and other objects, I can recognise simple types of forces and describe their effects<br><b>Scotland</b><br><br>Observe water, discussing and experimenting with how different objects behave in water<br><b>Northern Ireland</b> | <a href="#">Shiny stripes</a>        | <b>ZIZO</b>  | swing   |
|   | <a href="#">Yellow moves</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b>  | tricycle  |
|   | <a href="#">Protective layers</a>    | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Bike helmet   |
|   | <a href="#">In the field</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Tractor   |
|   | <a href="#">Up along and down</a>    | <b>LWCY</b>  | Velcro, chair being dragged and a ball bouncing                       |
|   | <a href="#">Beeb, beep, toot</a>     | <b>LWCY</b>  | Traffic sounds, a vehicle reversing and horn beeping                  |
|   | <a href="#">Bubble fun</a>           | <b>WGO</b>   | Children making bubbles   |
|   | <a href="#">Does it float?</a>       | <b>WGO</b>   | Children exploring floating and sinking                               |
|   | <a href="#">Magnets</a>              | <b>WGO</b>   | A magnet attracting paper clips                                       |
|   | <a href="#">Disappearing castles</a> | <b>WJH</b>   | A sandcastle being washed away by the tide                            |
| <b>Habitats</b>   |                                      |              |   |
| Explore the natural world around them. Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live.<br><b>Development Matters – England</b>  | <a href="#">Grey scales</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b>  | An acorn in a wood  |
|   | <a href="#">Watery home</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b>  | A frog in a pond  |
|   | <a href="#">Speckled and shiny</a>   | <b>ZIZO</b>  | A pebble on the beach   |
|   | <a href="#">Thin strands</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b>  | A squirrel in woodland  |

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|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| <p>I can explore the environment, make observations and communicate my ideas.</p> <p><b>Wales</b></p>  | <a href="#">Tangled up</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b> | A squirrel in woodland   |
|  | <a href="#">Out and about</a>       | <b>LWCY</b> | Woodpecker, aeroplane, person walking through leaves and birds singing |
|  | <a href="#">Holiday time</a>        | <b>LWCY</b> | Sounds from the beach  |
|  | <a href="#">Woodlice exploring</a>  | <b>WGO</b>  | Woodlice   |
|  | <a href="#">Water birds</a>         | <b>WGO</b>  | Duck, swan and moorhen   |
| <b>Humans</b>  |                                     |             |  |
| <p>I am aware of my growing body and I am learning the correct names for its different parts and how they work.</p> <p><b>Scotland</b></p> <p>Discuss safe play indoors and outdoors; show an increasing awareness of the importance of healthy food, hygienic habits, exercise and rest;</p> <p><b>NI</b></p> | <a href="#">Rub a dub dub</a>       | <b>LWCY</b> | Sounds of cleaning teeth, showering and a washing machine              |
|  | <a href="#">Protective layers</a>   | <b>ZIZO</b> | A bike helmet  |
| <b>Life cycles</b>   |                                     |             |  |
| <p>Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.</p> <p><b>Development matters – England</b></p> <p>Explore the life cycle of, for example butterflies or frogs</p> <p><b>Northern Ireland</b></p>   | <a href="#">Grey scales</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b> | An acorn in a wood   |
|  | <a href="#">Yellow sunshine</a>     | <b>ZIZO</b> | Sunflower  |
|  | <a href="#">Caterpillar changes</a> | <b>WJH</b>  | Butterfly lifecycle  |
|  | <a href="#">Egg, chick, chicken</a> | <b>WJH</b>  | Chicken lifecycle  |
|  | <a href="#">What's in the pond?</a> | <b>WJH</b>  | Frog lifecycle   |
|  | <a href="#">Apple orchard</a>       | <b>WJH</b>  | Apple lifecycle  |
|  | <a href="#">Bulb growing</a>        | <b>WJH</b>  | Daffodil growing   |
|  | <a href="#">Yellow weeds</a>        | <b>WJH</b>  | A dandelion lifecycle  |
| <b>Light</b>   |                                     |             |  |
| <p>Explore how you can shine light through some materials, but not others.</p> <p>Investigate shadows.</p> <p><b>Development Matters - England</b></p>   | <a href="#">Dark marks</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b> | Shadow in a playground   |
|  | <a href="#">In an emergency</a>     | <b>ZIZO</b> | Ambulance  |
|  | <a href="#">Colourful rainbows</a>  | <b>WGO</b>  | Rainbows   |
|  | <a href="#">In the light</a>        | <b>WGO</b>  | Children creating shadows in a playground                              |
| <b>Materials</b>   |                                     |             |  |
| <p>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.</p>   | <a href="#">Red cracks</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b> | Bricks of a sandpit  |
|  | <a href="#">Hairy performance</a>   | <b>ZIZO</b> | Carboard theatre   |

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| <b>Development matters – England</b><br><br>Through creative play, I explore different materials and can share my reasoning for selecting materials for different purposes.<br><b>Scotland</b><br><br>Explore a range of natural and man-made materials and sounds, Explore the properties of different materials and their appropriate uses.<br><b>Northern Ireland</b><br><br>I can explore the properties of materials and choose different materials for a particular use.<br><b>Wales</b>   | <a href="#">Brown cracks</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b> | Wood of a climbing frame                   |
|  | <a href="#">Black bumps</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b> | Wellington boots                           |
|  | <a href="#">Tightly woven</a>        | <b>ZIZO</b> | Fabric sofa                                |
|  | <a href="#">Marked and bumpy</a>     | <b>ZIZO</b> | Plastic chair                              |
|  | <a href="#">Scratchy and silver</a>  | <b>ZIZO</b> | Metal sieve                                |
|  | <a href="#">Shiny stripes</a>        | <b>ZIZO</b> | Swing – metal and rubber                   |
|  | <a href="#">Yellow moves</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b> | Tricycle                                   |
|  | <a href="#">Grey ridges</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b> | Rubber tyre                                |
|  | <a href="#">Speckled and shiny</a>   | <b>ZIZO</b> | Pebble                                     |
|  | <a href="#">Silver spots</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b> | Metal water fountain                       |
|  | <a href="#">Disappearing castles</a> | <b>WJH</b>  | A sandcastle being washed away by the tide |
| <b>Plants</b>  |                                      |             |  |
| Name and describe some plants and animals children are likely to see, encouraging children to recognise familiar plants and animals whilst outside.<br>Plant seeds and care for growing plants<br><b>Development Matters – England</b><br><br>I have helped to grow plants and can name their basic parts. I can talk about how they grow and what I need to do to look after them.<br><b>Scotland</b><br><br>Explore planting and growing throughout the year, for example growing seeds and plants or bulbs in soil and water;<br><b>Northern Ireland</b><br><br>I can recognise that plants and animals are living things which grow.<br><b>Wales</b> | <a href="#">Grey scales</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b> | Acorn                                      |
|  | <a href="#">Sweet and shiny</a>      | <b>ZIZO</b> | Banana                                     |
|  | <a href="#">Orange and tasty</a>     | <b>ZIZO</b> | Carrot                                     |
|  | <a href="#">Sparkly brown</a>        | <b>ZIZO</b> | Leaf with frost on it                      |
|  | <a href="#">Winter wonder</a>        | <b>ZIZO</b> | Snowdrop                                   |
|  | <a href="#">Yellow sunshine</a>      | <b>ZIZO</b> | Sunflower                                  |
|  | <a href="#">Hello spring</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b> | Daffodil                                   |
|  | <a href="#">In the field</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b> | Tractor                                    |
|  | <a href="#">Apple orchard</a>        | <b>WJH</b>  | Apple lifecycle                            |
|  | <a href="#">Bulb growing</a>         | <b>WJH</b>  | Daffodil growing                           |
|  | <a href="#">Friendly weeds</a>       | <b>WJH</b>  | A dandelion lifecycle                      |
| <b>Seasons</b>   |                                      |             |  |
| Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.<br><b>Development Matters - England</b>  | <a href="#">Let it snow</a>          | <b>WJH</b>  | Snowman melting                            |
|  | <a href="#">Black bumps</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b> | Wellington boots                           |
|  | <a href="#">Winter wonder</a>        | <b>ZIZO</b> | Snowdrop                                   |

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| Explore the weather and the seasons at appropriate times during the year.<br><b>Northern Ireland</b>  | <a href="#">Hello spring</a>           | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Daffodil   |
|   | <a href="#">Apple orchard</a>          | <b>WJH</b>   | Apple trees over the year  |
| <b>Senses</b>   |  |              |  |
| use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.<br><b>Development Matters – England</b><br><br>I can identify my senses and use them to explore the world around me.<br><b>Scotland</b><br><br>Explore using their senses to explore their immediate indoor and outdoor environments;<br><b>Northern Ireland</b>                               | <a href="#">Sweet and shiny</a>        | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Banana   |
|   | <a href="#">Stripes and patches</a>    | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Dog nose   |
|   | <a href="#">Wavy hair</a>              | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Donkey ears  |
|   | <a href="#">Fluffy and ginger</a>      | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Horse ears   |
|   | <a href="#">Brown hair</a>             | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Rabbit ears  |
|   | <a href="#">Fairy cakes</a>            | <b>WJH</b>   | Baking cakes   |
| <b>Space</b>  |  |              |  |
| I have experienced the wonder of looking at the vastness of the sky, and can recognise the sun, moon and stars and link them to daily patterns of life.<br><b>Scotland</b>  | <a href="#">Looking at you</a>         | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Astronaut on a spacewalk outside the International Space Station |
|   | <a href="#">Prepare for launch</a>     | <b>LWCYH</b> | Space shuttle launch   |
|   | <a href="#">To the Moon and beyond</a> | <b>WGO</b>   | The launch of the NASA Artemis mission                           |
|   | <a href="#">Cleaning in space</a>      | <b>WGO</b>   | Tim Peake cleaning on the International Space Station            |
| <b>Sound</b>  |  |              |  |
| Observe and interact with natural processes, such as ...a sound causing a vibration.<br><b>Development Matters – England</b><br><br>Through play, I have explored a variety of ways of making sounds.<br><b>Scotland</b><br><br>Explore a range of natural and man-made materials and sounds.<br>identify a variety of familiar sounds<br><b>Northern Ireland</b> | <a href="#">Scratchy and silver</a>    | <b>ZIZO</b>  | A sieve in a children's music area                               |
|   | <a href="#">Beeb, beep, toot</a>       | <b>LWCYH</b> | Traffic sounds, a vehicle reversing and horn beeping             |
|   | <a href="#">Going places</a>           | <b>LWCYH</b> | Train, helicopter and car  |
|   | <a href="#">Home help</a>              | <b>LWCYH</b> | Hair dryer, vacuum cleaner and toaster                           |
|   | <a href="#">Out and about</a>          | <b>LWCYH</b> | Sounds on a walk in a wood                                       |
|   | <a href="#">Ready to play</a>          | <b>LWCYH</b> | Piano, guitar and drums  |
| <b>Weather</b>  |  |              |  |
| Encourage toddlers and young children to enjoy and explore the natural world.<br><b>Development Matters – England</b>   | <a href="#">Brown bumps</a>            | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Wellington boots   |
|   | <a href="#">Sparkly brown</a>          | <b>ZIZO</b>  | Frost on a leaf  |
|   | <a href="#">Let it snow</a>            | <b>WJH</b>   | Snowman  |

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|---|---|-----------------|
| <p>To help children develop skills and concepts related to the world around them, they should have opportunities to engage in interesting activities that provide them with first-hand experiences to explore through their senses.</p> <p><b>Northern Ireland</b><br/>I can explore the environment, make observations and communicate my ideas.</p> <p><b>Wales</b></p> | <p><u>Colourful rainbow</u></p> <p><b>WJH</b></p> | <p>Rainbows</p> |
|---|---|-----------------|

| ABBREVIATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DIFFERENT EXPLORIFY ACTIVITY TYPES |                           |   |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| <b>ZIZO</b>  | Zoom In, Zoom Out         | Visually engaging close-up photos           |
| <b>OOO</b>   | Odd One Out               | Find similarities and differences           |
| <b>WGO</b>   | What's Going On?          | Short, distraction-free videos              |
| <b>HYE</b>   | Have You Ever?            | Activities linked to everyday experiences   |
| <b>WI</b>  | What If?                  | Explore ideas in new contexts               |
| <b>TBQ</b>   | The Big Question          | Plan an investigation                       |
| <b>PS</b>  | Problem Solvers           | Think critically and creatively             |
| <b>MS</b>  | Mission Survive           | Fun, imaginative hands-on challenges        |
| <b>MB</b>  | Mystery Bag               | Use senses to work out contents in a bag    |
| <b>LWCYH</b>   | Listen What Can You Hear? | Recordings of familiar sounds               |
| <b>SWA</b>   | Start With Art            | Using artworks to prompt science discussion |
| <b>WJH</b>   | What Just Happened?       | Observing changes over time                 |
| <b>WHO</b>   | Who Is?                   | Learn about a diverse range of scientists   |

#### Other recommended resources to support planning:

[PLAN primary science assessment resources \(planassessment.com\)](https://planassessment.com/)

[Assessment \(TAPS\) - Curriculum Materials | Primary Science Teaching Trust \(psts.org.uk\)](https://psts.org.uk/)

[Primary Science Teaching Trust Play Observe & Ask.](#)

Explorify is managed by STEM Learning and the Primary Science Teaching Trust



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