

Early Years

Explorify planning support



Curriculum statements	Explorify activities	Details	
Animals			
<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>Development Matters - England</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>Scotland</p> <p>I can recognise that plants and animals are living things which grow.</p> <p>Wales</p>	Have you ever cared for a baby animal?	HYE	Get your children chatting about something they have all experienced.
	Black tips	ZIZO	Dog
	Stripes and patches	ZIZO	Dog
	Wavy hair	ZIZO	Donkey
	Watery home	ZIZO	Frog
	Spiky spikes	ZIZO	Hedgehog
	Grooved lines	ZIZO	Goat
	Fluffy and ginger	ZIZO	Horse
	Speckled and soft	ZIZO	Horse
	Brown hair	ZIZO	Rabbit
	Fluffy and white	ZIZO	Rabbit
	Curly locks	ZIZO	Sheep
	Green scales	ZIZO	Snake
	Small and hairy	ZIZO	Spider
	Thin strands	ZIZO	Squirrel
	Tangled up	ZIZO	Squirrel
	Shiny sections	ZIZO	Worm
	Dawn to dusk	LWCY	Birds
	Out and about	LWCY	Woodpecker, aeroplane, person walking through leaves and birds singing
	Life in the wild	LWCY	Elephant, rattle snake and chimpanzee
Old MacDonald	LWCY	Cow, sheep and pig	

	Part of the family	LWCY	Cat, dog and horse
	Foxing around	WGO	Fox
	Magpie feeding	WGO	Magpie
	Relaxing rabbit	WGO	Wild rabbits
	Watery home	WGO	Duck, swan and moorhen
	Robin feeding	WGO	Robin
	Woodlice wonder	WGO	Woodlice
	Slugs galore	WGO	Slugs
	Caterpillar changes	WJH	Butterfly lifecycle
	Egg, chick, chicken	WJH	Chicken lifecycle
	What's in the pond?	WJH	Frog lifecycle

Changing materials

Provide children with opportunities to change materials from one state to another. Development Matters – England	held a piece of chocolate tightly in your hand?	HYE	Get your children chatting about something they have all experienced.
Discuss changes in materials in real contexts such as cooking, freezing and making dough Northern Ireland	Oozing with flavour	ZIZO	Pizza
	Party time	ZIZO	Jelly and ice-cream
I can explore the properties of materials and choose different materials for a particular use. Wales	Sparkly brown	ZIZO	Leaf with frost on
	Bubble fun	WGO	Children making bubbles
	Melting moments	WGO	Candle, butter on a jacket potato and a child with a chocolate button
	Fairy cakes	WJH	All the stages of making a cake
	An icy treat	WJH	Ice lolly melting
	Let it snow	WJH	Snowman

Dinosaurs

I can talk about science stories to develop my understanding of science and the world around me. Scotland	Stomp and chomp	ZIZO	A Patagotitan
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Electricity			
<p>Explore how things work. Development Matters – England</p> <p>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. Scotland</p>	Fingers ready	ZIZO	Beebot
	Time to unwind	ZIZO	Remote control
	Home help	LWCYH	Hairdryer, Hoover and toaster
Food			
<p>Talk about healthy eating and habits for life. Northern Ireland</p> <p>I am beginning to make connections between my diet and my physical health and well-being. Wales</p>	Have you ever been told to eat more fruit and veg?	HYE	Get your children chatting about something they have all experienced.
	Sweet and shiny	ZIZO	Banana
	Orange and tasty	ZIZO	Carrot
	Oozing with flavour	ZIZO	Pizza
	Party time	ZIZO	Jelly and ice cream
	Melting moments	WGO	Candle, butter on a jacket potato and a child with a chocolate button
	Apple orchard	WJH	Apple lifecycle
	Fairy cakes	WJH	All the stages of making a cake
An icy treat	WJH	Ice lolly melting	
Forces			
<p>Explore and talk about different forces they can feel. Development Matters – England</p> <p>Through everyday experiences and play with a variety of toys and other objects, I can recognise simple types of forces and describe their effects Scotland</p> <p>Observe water, discussing and experimenting with how different objects behave in water Northern Ireland</p>	Have you ever tried to push a floating toy down under water?	HYE	Get your children chatting about something they have all experienced.
	Shiny stripes	ZIZO	swing
	Yellow moves	ZIZO	tricycle
	Protective layers	ZIZO	Bike helmet
	Up along and down	LWCY	Velcro, chair being dragged and a ball bouncing
	Beeb, beep, toot	LWCY	Traffic sounds, a vehicle reversing and horn beeping
	Bubble fun	WGO	Children making bubbles
	Does it float?	WGO	Children exploring floating and sinking
	Magnets	WGO	A magnet attracting paper clips

Habitats			
<p>Explore the natural world around them. Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live.</p> <p>Development Matters – England</p> <p>I can explore the environment, make observations and communicate my ideas.</p> <p>Wales</p>	Grey scales	ZIZO	An acorn in a wood
	Watery home	ZIZO	A frog in a pond
	Speckled and shiny	ZIZO	A pebble on the beach
	Thin strands	ZIZO	A squirrel in woodland
	Tangled up	ZIZO	A squirrel in woodland
	Out and about	LWCY	Woodpecker, aeroplane, person walking through leaves and birds singing
	Watery home	WGO	Duck, swan and moorhen
Humans			
<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>Scotland</p>	Rub a dub dub	LWCY	Sounds of cleaning teeth, showering and a washing machine
	Protective layers	ZIZO	A bike helmet
Life cycles			
<p>Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.</p> <p>Development matters – England</p> <p>Explore the life cycle of, for example butterflies or frogs</p> <p>Northern Ireland</p>	Grey scales	ZIZO	An acorn in a wood
	Yellow sunshine	ZIZO	Sunflower
	Caterpillar changes	WJH	Butterfly lifecycle
	Egg, chick, chicken	WJH	Chicken lifecycle
	What's in the pond?	WJH	Frog lifecycle
	Apple orchard	WJH	Apple lifecycle
	Bulb growing	WJH	Daffodil growing
Light			
<p>Explore how you can shine light through some materials, but not others. Investigate shadows.</p> <p>Development Matters - England</p>	Dark marks	ZIZO	Shadow in a playground
	Colourful rainbows	WGO	Rainbows
	In the light	WGO	Children creating shadows in a playground

Materials			
<p>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. Development matters – England</p> <p>Through creative play, I explore different materials and can share my reasoning for selecting materials for different purposes. Scotland</p> <p>Explore a range of natural and man-made materials and sounds, Explore the properties of different materials and their appropriate uses. Northern Ireland</p> <p>I can explore the properties of materials and choose different materials for a particular use. Wales</p>	Had a favourite toy that broke?	HYE	Get your children chatting about something they have all experienced.
	Red cracks	ZIZO	Bricks of a sandpit
	Hairy performance	ZIZO	Carboard theatre
	Brown cracks	ZIZO	Wood of a climbing frame
	Tightly woven	ZIZO	Fabric sofa
	Marked and bumpy	ZIZO	Plastic chair
	Scratchy and silver	ZIZO	Metal sieve
	Shiny stripes	ZIZO	Swing – metal sand rubber
	Yellow moves	ZIZO	Tricycle
	Grey ridges	ZIZO	Rubber tyre
Speckled and shiny	ZIZO	Pebble	
Silver spots	ZIZO	Metal water fountain	
Plants			
<p>Name and describe some plants and animals children are likely to see, encouraging children to recognise familiar plants and animals whilst outside. Plant seeds and care for growing plants Development Matters – England</p> <p>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. Scotland</p> <p>Explore planting and growing throughout the year, for example growing seeds and plants or bulbs in soil and water; Northern Ireland</p> <p>I can recognise that plants and animals are living things which grow. Wales</p>	HYE grown seeds or plants?	HYE	Get your children chatting about something they have all experienced.
	Grey scales	ZIZO	Acorn
	Sweet and shiny	ZIZO	Banana
	Orange and tasty	ZIZO	Carrot
	Sparkly brown	ZIZO	Leaf with frost on it
	Winter wonder	ZIZO	Snowdrop
	Yellow sunshine	ZIZO	Sunflower
	Hello spring	ZIZO	Daffodil
	Apple orchard	WJH	Apple lifecycle
	Bulb growing	WJH	Daffodil growing

Seasons			
<p>Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.</p> <p>Development Matters - England</p> <p>Explore the weather and the seasons at appropriate times during the year.</p> <p>Northern Ireland</p>	Let it snow	WJH	Snowman melting
	Winter wonder	ZIZO	Snowdrop
	Hello spring	ZIZO	Daffodil
Senses			
<p>use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.</p> <p>Development Matters – England</p> <p>I can identify my senses and use them to explore the world around me.</p> <p>Scotland</p> <p>Explore using their senses to explore their immediate indoor and outdoor environments;</p> <p>Northern Ireland</p>	HYE smelt something that made you happy?	HYE	Get your children chatting about something they have all experienced.
	Sweet and shiny	ZIZO	Banana
	Stripes and patches	ZIZO	Dog
	Wavy hair	ZIZO	Donkey
	Fluffy and ginger	ZIZO	Horse
	Brown hair	ZIZO	Rabbit
	Fairy cakes	WJH	Baking cakes
Space			
<p>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.</p> <p>Scotland</p>	Looking at you	ZIZO	Astronaut on a spacewalk outside the International Space Station
	Prepare for launch	LWCYH	Space shuttle launch
	To the Moon and beyond	WGO	The launch of the NASA Artemis mission
	Cleaning in space	WGO	Tim Peake cleaning on the International Space Station
Sound			
<p>Observe and interact with natural processes, such as ...a sound causing a vibration.</p> <p>Development Matters – England</p> <p>Through play, I have explored a variety of ways of making sounds.</p> <p>Scotland</p> <p>Explore a range of natural and man-made materials and sounds.</p> <p>identify a variety of familiar sounds</p> <p>Northern Ireland</p>	Scratchy and silver	ZIZO	A sieve in a children’s music area
	Beeb, beep, toot	LWCYH	Traffic sounds, a vehicle reversing and horn beeping
	Going places	LWCYH	Train, helicopter and car
	Ready to play	LWCYH	Piano, guitar and drums

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

[The Great Science Share](#) - see videos on Scientific Enquiry under the tab "Great Science Skills".

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



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