

# Geography in EYFS

at Chad Vale  
Primary School



Whilst geography isn't an official subject within the Early Years Framework, there are many vital learning opportunities which provide children with a foundation of key skills to later prepare them for learning in Key Stage 1 and beyond. Early years' geography activities often involve young children learning about the people and places in the world we live in. Geography aspects are seen around us every day, as children try to make sense of the world and move around within it. In EYFS, children will be taught a sense of place- to observe, find out about, and identify features in the place they live and the natural world. They will also find out about their environment and talk about those features they like and dislike and look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.

The most relevant statements for Geography are taken from the following areas of learning:

- Mathematics
- Expressive Arts and Design

Three and Four-Year-Olds	Mathematics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand position through words alone. For example, “The bag is under the table,” – with no pointing.</li> <li>• Describe a familiar route.</li> <li>• Discuss routes and locations, using words like ‘in front of’ and ‘behind’.</li> </ul>
	Understanding the World		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.</li> <li>• Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.</li> <li>• Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.</li> </ul>
Reception	Understanding the World		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw information from a simple map.</li> <li>• Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.</li> <li>• Explore the natural world around them.</li> <li>• Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.</li> </ul>
ELG	Understanding the World	People, Culture and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.</li> <li>• Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps.</li> </ul>
		The Natural World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</li> <li>• Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons.</li> </ul>

**How do we provide a foundation of geography skills and knowledge in our Early Years?**

**Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos**

**Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.**

**Draw information from a simple map**

**Sing songs, learn poems and read stories about the natural world**

**Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries**

**Recognise that some environments are different from the one in which they live**

**Explore the natural world around them**

**Explore animal habitats around the world**

**Familiarise themselves with the town, city and country they live in**

**Explore local area-  
visits to Harborne  
Walkway and  
Harborne Nature  
Reserve**

**Create a simple  
map of their  
journey to  
school**

**Explore atlases,  
Google Earth and  
world maps**

**Talk about  
appropriate  
clothing for  
different weather**

**Talk about our  
holidays and  
how they differ  
from where we  
live**

**Daily weather  
conversations linked to our  
weather chart. Compare  
with other countries.  
Explore BBC weather app.  
Talk about appropriate  
clothing for different  
weather**

**Observe and  
discuss changes in  
the world around  
them**

**What might these  
experiences look like?**

**Exploring different  
geographical  
stories from around  
the world.  
e.g Handa's  
surprise**

**Observational skills  
when drawing things in  
the environment or  
when out on  
environmental walks  
to our local  
area/woods**

**Recreate animal  
habitats using small  
world e.g. under the  
sea, arctic, forest**