

History in the Early Years

History at Foundation Stage (Reception) is covered in the 'Understanding the World' area of the EYFS Curriculum. It is introduced through activities that require the children to think about the Past and Present.

Topic work provides opportunities for the children to understand their place in time. The 'Marvellous Me' topic in Autumn will allow the children to think about what they can do now and to develop comparative skills as they learn what they did in the past and also consider what they can do now, in the present. Links are also naturally made with other subjects. For example, in studying RE, the children are taught to consider their own lives and to think about how they grow and change. Children are taught to discuss their gifts and talents and to compare what they could do as babies with what they can do now. In this way the concept of chronology is developed. This simple introduction will then provide the children with a starting point upon which to base further Historical learning. For example when studying the life of the queen, the children learn social history as they gain an understanding of how the lives of people change over time and how the world in which we live changes over time, thus making natural links with Geography. These opportunities for developing concepts are similarly developed when studying Art and the lives of artists.

Early Years History helps the children develop skills in the prime areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum such as Communication and Language and Personal, Social and Emotional Development as they discuss their own lives and that of their family members.

The specific area of Literacy allows the children to learn about History through stories. The children learn to understand the way that characters behave and how over time their actions and feelings may develop and change. Books also provide a meaningful context for teaching vocabulary linked to historical concepts.

Children are encouraged to ask questions about when things happened and how change has occurred over time. Through science activities, children are encouraged to problem solve and to develop observational skills that allow them to see the passing of time and changes that occur.

Maths activities allow the children to sequence events chronologically and again reinforce historical concepts.

The wealth of opportunities to develop historical understanding, prepares the children for specific History activities in their National Curriculum work in Year 1.



Learning about Chinese New Year as a cultural and historical tradition and then making our own Chinese Dragon dance based on what we've learned.

A visit from the Dorset Waste Partnership as we learn about changes in our world over time and our responsibility to care for God's world, especially as we look to the future.



Learning about social history in our art work on Lowry and then using this to think about houses through history.



Sharing stories as a way to understand the sequencing of time and the children's place in time.

