

Supporting Your 1 - 3 Year Old Child in

Simple Science

Parent Advice Booklet


What Is This Guide?

In the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (known as EYFS), there are some expectations laid out for how children generally develop in exploring the world around them. This guide can help you understand what that development might look like for your child and how you can help them.


This guide breaks down the EYFS framework into sections and statements, providing you with simple explanations of what we call simple science and how it typically looks for this age group. Each area has ideas for supporting your child through fun and engaging activities, whether they are observing what's happening around them or are learning what different objects are used for.

Rather than a list of must-do activities, you can dip in and out of these prompts and ideas based on your child's current interests and appropriate stage of development.



You can visit the **parent section** of the Twinkl site for even more resources to support your child in simple science, as well as all other areas of learning. Either search for keywords used in this guide or explore more in the early years section.






From birth onwards, your child will be constantly learning. The skills they develop in observations and exploring will help them in later life as problem-solving and critical thinking skills.



At this age, there's not a whole lot that you can do to turn your child into a scientist; rather, you can provide sensory experiences and develop their curiosity and ability to investigate the world around them.



In early years education, this section is called *Understanding the World* and, for 0 - 1 year olds, mostly involves watching and grabbing things to better understand what they do.



Read this guide for practical ideas and advice on how you can further support your child within the different aspects of physical development at home.

Science Skills in Play

The most important learning experiences for young children don't come from conversation; they come from playing and experimenting with objects and people. In this section, we've included some important observation and investigating skills that your child will be developing every day and some ways that you can support them.

At 1 - 3 years old, your child may be working towards...	To support this, you could...
closely observing what animals, people and vehicles do.	take your child out and about regularly for a change of scene and for the chance to find out more about the wider world.
watching a toy being hidden and trying to find it.	use familiar objects and toys that your child will recognise so that they will follow you and know what to look for.
looking for dropped objects.	wait and allow your child time to respond when they drop things, rather than immediately picking them up.
knowing things are used in different ways, e.g. a ball is rolled or thrown and a toy car is pushed.	demonstrate actions for your child and sit with them during floor play time with a variety of toys and items.
using their senses to explore the world around them, e.g. smelling, touching.	regularly set up messy play time with things like playdough, shaving foam or water.
shows particular interests, e.g. dinosaurs, dolls, cars, or TV and book characters.	provide a range of activities based around a certain theme so that your child can make links between them.
exploring objects by linking together different approaches: shaking, hitting, looking, feeling, tasting, mouthing, pulling, turning and poking.	demonstrate different ways to interact with objects, even in silly or unusual ways; doing something 'wrong' actually helps your child learn what works and what doesn't.
remembering where objects belong.	help your child learn about categories by engaging them in home tidying routines.
matching parts of objects that fit together, e.g. puts lid on teapot.	give simple, age-appropriate puzzles to your child.
noticing detailed features of objects in their environment.	narrate the world around you as you walk out and about and ask simple questions.

Science Skills in Play

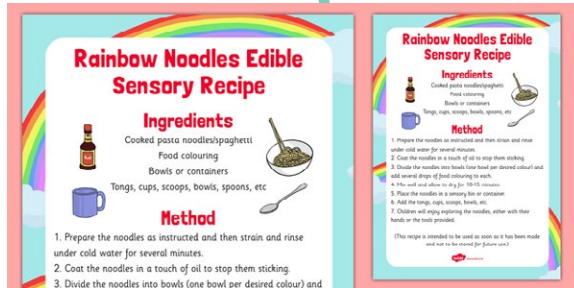


How is your little one progressing with their simple science skills?



Messy Recipe Booklet

Curiosity is an important trait in young children, so finding activities that encourage them to explore is a great way to build their investigative skills.

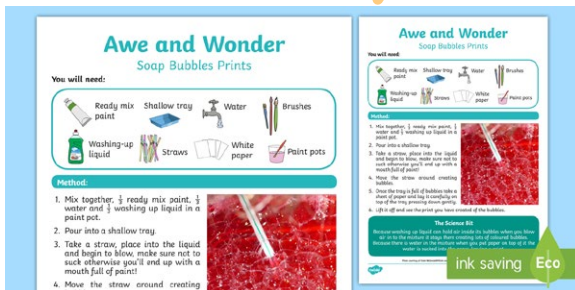


Rainbow Noodle Recipe

What better way to learn than to make a mess? Using multiple senses during play will help your child to discover more about the things around them, so how about cracking out the shaving foam, bubbles or playdough?



Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



Soap Bubble Printing

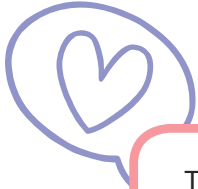
Journal nice moments
or record key
dates here:



Stick a photo of your child here:



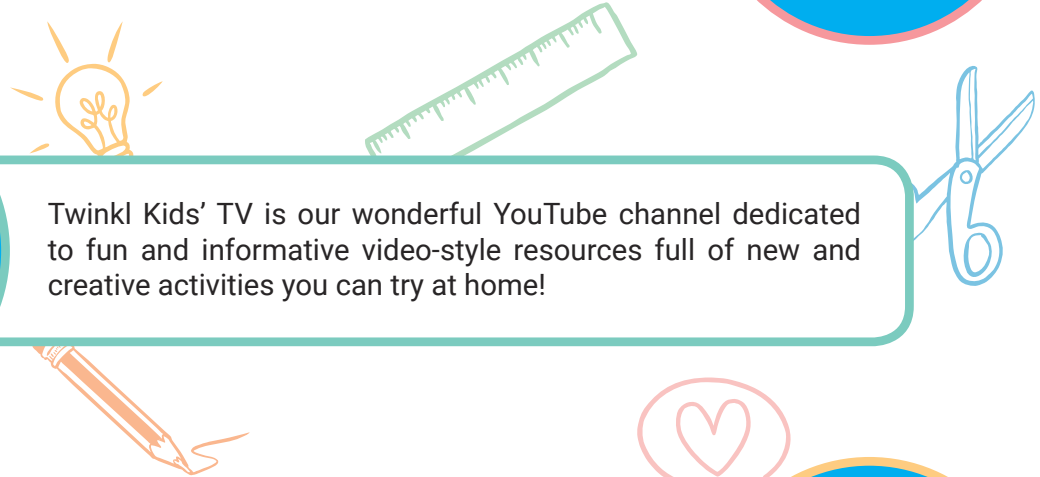
Explore and Discover More



Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

