

Geography in EYFS

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Geography is woven into the EYFS statutory framework through the specific area of learning called “Understanding the World”.

Here’s how geography is implemented in EYFS:

1. Exploration of Place and Environment

- Children learn about their immediate environment (home, school, local area)
- They notice features of their surroundings (parks, buildings, rivers, roads)
- Practitioners encourage walks, outdoor play, and discussion of what children can see.

2. Developing Spatial Awareness

- Using maps, globes, and simple plans (e.g., treasure maps, floor maps).
- Building small-world play environments (train sets, farms, towns).
- Talking about positions and directions (“next to”, “behind”, “across the road”).

3. Understanding People and Communities

- Discussing where children live and where their families come from.
- Sharing traditions, foods, or clothing from different cultures.
- Comparing local life with that in other parts of the world through books, photos, or digital media.

4. The Natural World

- Exploring weather, seasons, and climate.
- Observing natural features (trees, hills, rivers, beaches).
- Discussing animals and plants from different environments (forests, deserts, oceans).

5. Practical, Play-Based Activities

- Storybooks with geographical themes (e.g., journeys, different countries).
- Role-play (e.g., an airport, a campsite, a safari).
- Using sand, water, and outdoor play to model landscapes.
- Seasonal walks, gardening, and forest school sessions.

By the end of Reception (age 5), children are expected to:

- Know about similarities and differences between places, environments, and communities
- Understand the natural world, including seasonal changes and basic environmental concepts.
- Talk about their own environment and how it compares to others.