







	Months	The Natural World
Seeds 	0-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can move eyes to look at different parts of objects and pictures• Interested in new experiences (e.g. <i>shows renewed interest if you present a different toy</i>)• Repeats actions that have an effect (e.g. <i>kicking or batting mobile to create movement</i>)• Brings objects to mouth to explore them• Shows interest in small objects or the detail of a toy: for example, will gaze at small beads in a rattle.• Plays with and explores objects by touching them, looking at them, mouthing them, and listening to the sounds they make• Persistently and deliberately reaches out for toys that interest them• Actively explores objects using all senses: shaking, looking, feeling, tasting, mouthing, pulling, turning, poking• Begins to understand cause and effect (e.g. <i>will deliberately repeat actions in order to repeat the effect</i>)• Watches toy being partially hidden under a cloth/container and then finds it
	12-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explores new objects systematically: for example, first banging, then mouthing, then turning over. (This helps understanding and awareness of cause and effect.)• Watches toy being completely hidden and tries to find it; watches intently where a spider has scuttled away under leaves, demonstrating an awareness of object permanence• Explore natural materials, indoors and outside• Becomes absorbed in combining objects: for example, banging two objects or placing objects into containers• Knows there are different ways to play with different toys: for example, a ball is for rolling/throwing, a car is for pushing, blocks are for building/posting, etc• Interested in things that go together: for example, cup/saucer, puzzle parts• Realises that one object can act as a container for another: puts smaller objects inside bigger ones• Experiments: tries something and then reflects on it, and then tries something else: for example, if piece of puzzle doesn't fit, tries it in the other holes• Closely observes what animals, people and vehicles do
Sprouts 	24-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plays with play dough and other malleable materials making different shapes; will tell you what they have made• Enjoys simple stories about people and nature (birds, bees, snails, cats, dogs, etc.), and is interested in photographs of these• Matches sets of identical objects• Understands the idea of 'the same'• Understands size differences: for example, selects the bigger or smaller object or picture when asked• Enjoys playing with small world reconstructions, drawing from first-hand experiences: for example, visits to farms, garages, train tracks; walking by river or lake; etc• Notices detailed features of objects in their environment• Begins to understand immediate time language: later, soon, before. Mummy is coming soon• Enjoys experimenting with water/sand and other capacity related play sequences• Recognises that two objects have the same shape



	36-48	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can talk about the natural world through play and making collections• Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world, such as the place where they live or the natural world• Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties• Developing an understanding of growth, decay, and changes over time• Talks about why things happen and how things work• Talks about the differences between materials and changes they notice• Understands the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal• Plants seeds and shows care and concern for living things• Begins to understand the effect their behaviour can have on the environment (e.g. <i>littering</i>)• Begins to understand there are different countries in the world and talks about the differences they have experienced or seen
Seedlings 	48-60	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginning to understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them (e.g. <i>changing leaves</i>)• <i>Describes what they see, hear and feel whilst outside</i>• Makes observations of animals and plants and explains why some things occur, and talks about changes e.g. (<i>talk about the weather, changing seasons and life cycles</i>)• Talks about the features of their own immediate environment, features that they like and dislike, and how environments might vary from one another• Knows about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials, and living things• Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns, and change in nature
Saplings 	ELG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants• 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• Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter