



Science Ninjas: Meaningful, Practical Science Skills



What is Science Ninjas?

- A way of helping teachers to make practical work meaningful by improving planning and delivery.
- Doing better, more effective, practical work.
- Avoids practical activities being fun but ineffective in terms of progress.
- Supports children in making and demonstrating real and significant progress.
-

Manageable and Meaningful

- Teachers are expected to deliver enquiry throughout the science curriculum.
- Truly understanding scientific enquiry is an **enormous task**.
- Ninjas helps make enquiry **more manageable**,
- It helps ensure that the activities our children carry out are **meaningful** and help them achieve the lesson's learning outcomes.
- It starts with **improving planning and delivery of practical lessons**.

Realistic and Achievable

The Science Ninja approach provides a more realist approach to enquiry-based learning in science,

- developing, over time, an understanding of the place, point and purpose of practical skills within the specific contexts of different practical activities
- Leading both children and teachers to understand scientific enquiry more clearly and able to use it as a learning tool.
- For us - Skills are the gateway to successfully investigating.

A Clear Focus

- Each Ninja activity focusses on one of 4 simple skills, that teachers and children are familiar with rather than the NC WS statements which they find difficult to understand and implement.
- Lesson planning focuses on this chosen skill and includes specific instructions (a skill SC) about how to carry out the skill during the activity.



Visibility and Ownership

- During (or after) the activity, the teacher rewards no more than 5 children for doing the skill well (or making progress).
- 2 stickers are given for each reward:
 - 1 for their clothing
 - 1 for their work
- This helps bring the scheme to life, helping the children and teachers:
 - recognise that they're carrying out a skill,
 - that the skill is important because it makes the activity successful and that it can be improved upon.