



Scientific vocabulary
progression

Year Group	Topic	Vocabulary children should use			Adult vocabulary
YEAR 1	Working Scientifically	Questions	Similarities	Collect	Collect
		Answers	Egg timers	Measure	Evidence
		Equipment	Ruler	Record	Data
		Results	Tape measure	Group	Table
		Sort	Metre stick	Test	Chart
		Explore	Beaker	Compare	Classify
		Observe		Describe	Identify
		Similar		Different Differences	Observe changes of time Notice patterns Notice relationships Secondary sources Hand lenses Communicate

Year 2

Working Scientifically

As Yr 1 plus:

Chart

Table

Pictogram

Tally chart

Block diagram
/ graph

Gather

Order

Notice
patterns

Link ideas

Stop watch

Pipette

Syringe

Use
comparatives -
hotter/ cooler,
older / younger
etc

Gather

Evidence

Data

Venn diagram

Identify

Classify

Rank

Notice relationships

Year 3

Working scientifically	As KS1 plus: Scientific enquiry Similarities Differences Observations Keys Bar charts Thermometer Data logger	Changes over time Identify Classify Evidence Conclusion Prediction Magnifying glass Microscope	Comparative tests Fair test Careful Present Data Results Support Not support	Systematic Accurate Disprove Notice relationships
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Year 4

Working Scientifically

As previous plus:

Increase

Decrease

Accurate

Appearance

Notice relationships

Systematic

Disprove

Year 5	Working Scientifically	As previous plus: Opinion Fact Variables Independent variable	Dependent variable Controlled variable precision	Classification keys Scatter graphs Line graphs Notice relationships Support	Degree of trust Causal relationships Refute
Year 6	Working Scientifically	As previous plus: systematic	Causal relationships	Refute Degree of trust	