

The Science Behind The Journey

RESEARCH-INFORMED | CHILD-CENTRED | FUTURE-FOCUSED

Acorn Explorer missions are grounded in leading educational and psychological theories about how children learn and grow.

Built on evidence.
Designed for
real-world impact.
Made to grow
curious, capable
change-makers.

THEORIES THAT GUIDE THE ACORN WAY



CONSTRUCTIVISM
(Piaget, Bruner)



**ZONE OF
PROXIMAL
DEVELOPMENT**
(Vgotsky)



**SELF-
DETERMINATION
THEORY**
(Deci & Ryan)



**GROWTH
MINDSET**
(Dweck)



**DUAL CODING
THEORY**
(Paivio)



**ECOLOGICAL
SYSTEMS THEORY**
(Bronfenbrenner)

HOW WE BUILD ON THIS

Missions connect new ideas to real-world experiences and prior knowledge.

Adventurer & Investigator pathways offer the right depth for every learner.

Choice, meaningful missions & real impact build intrinsic motivation.

We encourage curiosity, reflection and confidence in uncertainty.

Illustrations, maps, diagrams & writing tasks work together to deepen learning.

Our journey connects, home, school and real-world experiences.

CHILDREN WILL SEE

- Meaningful connections
- Curiosity-led discovery
- Stronger understanding through exploration

- The right challenge
- Support when needed
- Growing confidence at their own pace

- A sense of choice
- Purpose & ownership
- Motivation from within

- Resilience & perseverance
- Confidence with uncertainty
- Belief in their ability to grow

- Clearer understanding
- Visual & verbal thinking
- Creativity & deeper recall

- Awareness of the world
- Connection to community
- Empathy & a desire to make a difference

Making space for human thinking in a digital world -
because the future won't run on code and calculations alone.