

## Activities and Learning Objectives for the topic **OUR GARDEN**

### *Personal, Social & Emotional Development*

As part of the topic we will look at staying safe in the sunshine and safety around ponds and other bodies of water. We have a good dvd to support this. It will also cover the children thinking about how to be kind to the creatures they will be looking at and how to look after the garden generally e.g. not picking flowers, keeping it tidy. As part of the children's general development we will continue to work on playing cooperatively, working together on projects, listening to each other and considering ideas from all. They will be encouraged to think about aspects of the garden they like or dislike and we will try to incorporate their ideas.

### *Communication & Language*

There will be lots of new vocabulary to acquire around minibeads, flowers, birds, butterflies, life cycles, healthy eating, gardening and vegetables. The children will be encouraged to explore, investigate, ask and solve their own questions. We will support language in play by providing different dens and role play situations and by continuing the telling and acting out of Helicopter stories. There will be a variety of songs around the topic. We will try to provide you with the words of those that prove popular so that you can practise at home. We will look at and describe paintings of gardens and also use an empty wooden frame for the children to place anywhere in the garden to describe its contents. We will work on listening skills with games such as the parachute that necessitate following directions and by sitting quietly and identifying environmental sounds.

### *Physical Development*

We will be based in the garden as much as possible so there will be plenty of opportunity for exercise. We will use the P.E equipment that includes objects to jump over, crawl under, balance on, bats and balls and targets to aim bean bags at. We will also play on the balance bikes, trikes and scooters. The activities such as gardening with tools and the large water play set will help improve gross and fine motor skills. We will base some fun P.E activities and consider healthy eating using the Joe Wick's book *The Burpee Bears*.

### *Literacy*

We will use non fiction books to look up information to help us recognise different minibeads, birds, butterflies and flowers. We will work on phonological and phonemic awareness such as rhyming strings, initial sounds, linking sounds to letters, segmenting words and reading high frequency words using games adapted to each child's needs. We will use activities from *Letters and Sounds*, many are based outside.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/190599/Letters\\_and\\_Sounds\\_-\\_DFES-00281-2007.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190599/Letters_and_Sounds_-_DFES-00281-2007.pdf)

There will be many opportunities for mark making in play situations including clipboards, big chalks on the tyres, painting with footballs etc on big sheets of paper, drawing in coloured sand and the big white boards. We will make books about our discoveries.

### *Mathematics*

There will be counting opportunities in the naming and recording of minibeasts found such as number of spots on a ladybird, different parts of minibeasts such as legs, antenna, wings etc. We will look at pattern and symmetry in relation to butterflies and moths. The P.E games will involve counting totals and using sand timers. Water play will include thinking about capacity and encourage mathematical language about size. Work on life cycles will involve sequencing. There are a number of counting songs we will use such as 5 Little Speckled Frogs and 5 Little Ducks Went Swimming One Day.

### *Understanding the World*

There will be a lot of work concentrating on the environment, growth and decay and concern for living things. The children will be encouraged to think about the effect that their behaviour can have on the environment and we will look at recycling and composting. We will plant flowers and vegetables, thinking about the conditions that they need to grow. For the technology element we will play with remote control cars, toy phones and take pictures with the children's camera. When forced indoors there are many computer games concerned with the environment.

### *Expressive Arts & Design*

There will be the opportunity to take part in larger scale painting projects outdoors such as painting with footballs or our feet on big sheets of paper. We will look at painting of gardens and make our own using differing painting techniques and collages. We will explore making different sounds with the musical instruments outside and use sticks to hit different objects such as the tractor tyres. We will make junk houses for minibeasts of our choice. We will use the Loose Parts and the play tents to make different dens and places to hide for role play.