



Continuous provision: Our beautiful planet

These optional activities are designed to complement the learning objectives of the 'Our beautiful planet' unit. They reinforce core learning areas across different areas of provision, promote independence and cater to different learning styles.

Investigation area

Provide a large tray filled with a variety of natural objects, including flowering plants with roots intact, plants removed from their pots, seeds and bulbs. Include magnifying glasses for children to closely observe. Encourage them to examine the textures, shapes and features such as roots, leaves and flowers.

Maths area

Prepare a large tray with grass cut to different lengths. Encourage the children to measure the grass using cubes and find blades to match lengths from from one cube to five cubes. Ask the children to place the blades of grass in order from shortest to longest.



Messy play area

Prepare a large tray or table with flower heads, petals, and leaves. Provide pre-cut bunting triangles from natural fabrics like cotton or linen. Support the children as they arrange plants on the fabric, fold another piece over the top and hammer gently to transfer the pigments. String the finished triangles together to create natural bunting for the outdoor area.

Fine motor area

1. Place a variety of seeds in different sizes and colours on a large tray. Provide empty bowls and child-friendly tweezers. Encourage the children to sort the seeds into bowls using the tweezers.
2. Provide a selection of leaves and large plastic needles pre-threaded with wool. Guide the children to thread the leaves onto the wool creating leaf garlands for the outdoor area.



Creative area

Provide a variety of leaves in different shapes, sizes, and colours. Invite the children to choose a leaf and stick it onto a piece of paper. Encourage them to use felt pens to add details like a head, arms, and legs, transforming their leaf into a person or a unique creature.

Malleable area

Provide modelling dough, rollers and a selection of natural materials such as leaves, pine cones, berries, pebbles, star anise, seeds, twigs, acorns, tree bark or feathers. Ask the children to roll a ball of dough flat and use the natural materials to create patterns by pressing them into the surface.