Exploring and engaging with the nature around us







My children's outdoor exploration













My children's outdoor exploration

This place is like a small plot with lots of trees around and it is sort of short cut way for school runs therefore it is my daily walk through the trees but since I started this sustainability model for John Meir award which is focus on connecting with other plants and animals that share the world with us and the non-living part of the nature and now when I walk through the trees I stop to smell, inhale the fresh air coming from the surrounding and try to listen to the different sounds and noise of the birds, the wind, the leaf , the branches are making, I look closely to the branches, to the trees, it is like there is a spark of nature love in me which I was not aware before. Since I started this model, I look closely to the non-human part of the nature, and I do think what I can do to help the non-human part of the nature to survive and thrive so that our future generation can also enjoy them as well. (www.Johnmuirtrust.org)

Myself and my children was fascinated by all the things that was grown, over and by side and on the ground of the tree. This outdoor exploration was involved with lots of hands on experiential learning which involved, looking at the patters, the colours, different textures and then we had some discussion on the life cycles of leaves , comparing the leaves, comparing the trees, the flowers. Before I would not touch lichens but now I know what are they and the importance role they play to our ecosystem. Now every time we pass through the trees the children will stop and see if they can spot any birds or squirl, or sometimes they would just go and explore the patterns on the of the trees ,on the leaves or look to spot any bugs or Fungai on the trees. Children tend to mirror the behaviour of adults now that I am not afraid of touching the lichens they touch it as well which links to banduras social learning theory that children's behaviour comes from the adult surrounding them.

Importance of wildlife

Earth worms



Worms are hungry little creature and have the capacity to eat their own body weight food every day then decomposes. As well as keeping soil healthy worms can clean up contaminated land by enhancing ‘bioremediation’ the process by which micro-organism consume and break down environmental pollutants converting them to non-toxic molecules. As well as distributing nutrients and organism and decomposing, worms are also very important to the food chain they provide a crucial protein rich food for other important species like birds, hedgehogs, and frogs. (www.soilassociation.org)

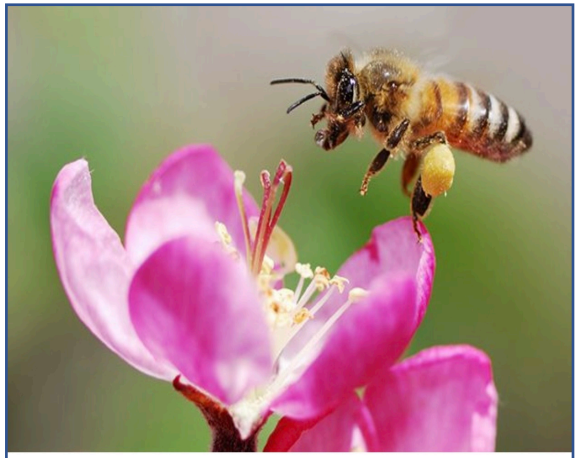
Woodlice



Woodlice feed largely on damp decomposing plant material and are therefore part of the biodiversity that helps nutrient recycling in the garden therefore it should be encouraged in a healthy garden because they rarely damage healthy plant. Woodlice are food for many other creatures such as shrews, toads, centipedes, some spiders, ground beetles and parasitic flies and they mostly found in dark damp places and often in large numbers. (www.rhs.org.uk)

Importance of wildlife

Bees



Bees are vital to both pollinate the food we need to survive and pollinate many of the trees and flowers that provide habitat for wildlife. As well as pollinators, honeybees also produce honey, and this sweet golden liquid is a valuable product not only for its taste but also due to its medicinal property. While there are other method of pollination including by the wind, birds, and other insect but wild bees can do it on a much bigger scale, and it has been estimated that it would cost farmer in the UK around 1.8 billion per year to manually pollinate their crops. If bees were to become extinct then the planet could be in serious trouble because bees are such an integral part of most eco system. (www.woodland.org.uk)

Slugs/ Snails



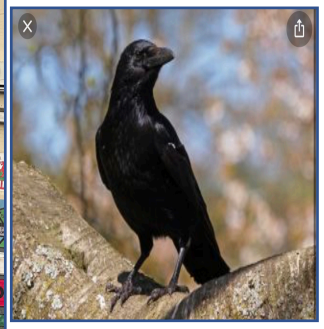


Slugs and Snails are important part of the nature as they provide food for mammals, birds, earthworms and insect therefore they are also important part of natural balance, and they play a key role in ecosystem by eating decomposing vegetation just like worms so therefore slugs are like other living organism in an eco-system, and they have a role to play and slugs can live for about 6 years, but their eggs can lie dormant for years before hatching when condition right. (www.bbcwildlife.org.uk)

The importance of bird life to the environment

Crow





Seagull





House sparrow





Pica pica





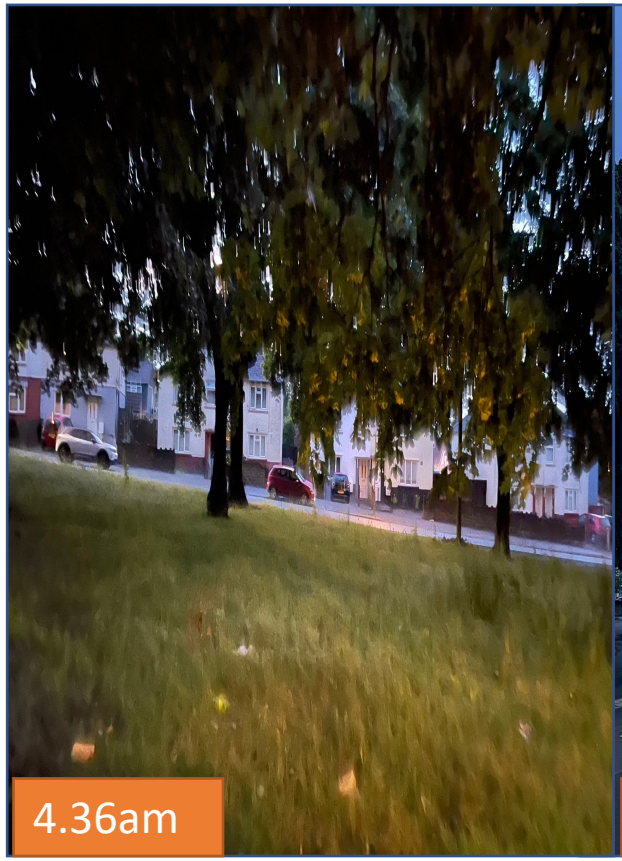
The importance of bird life to the environment

Birds with their beautiful appearance and with their delightful songs allows human to form a deep connection with nature therefore they have become an integral part of our human culture. Birds are vital to our eco systems, both wild and those managed by human. Birds are important pollinator, birds protect important habitats like wetlands, birds spread nutrients in the ocean, Birds help to balance the food chain by eating fast reproducing rodent and insect and this ensure populations are managed and do not grow to unsustainable levels which can devastate ecosystem. (www.birdlife.org)

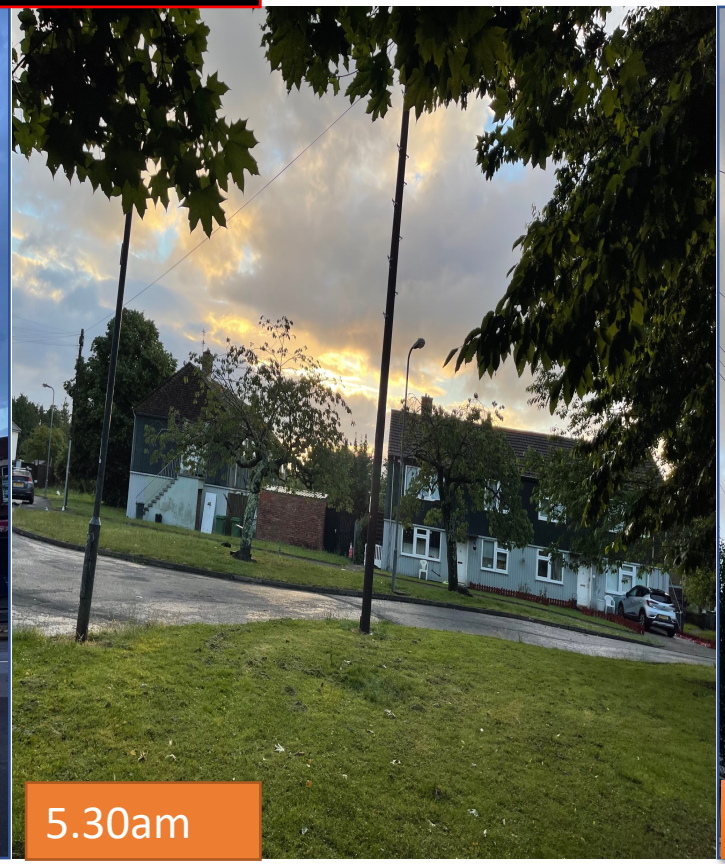
Studies have shown that birds eat as many as 4,50,000kilograms of bugs in a single year and beneficial birds assist with crop production in an eco-friendly manner but unfortunately farmers only things that birds cause damage to the crop yes there may be considerable loss occurs for some crops, but the free pest control service provided by birds are rarely acknowledged by farmers. Bird dropping are consisting of many plant nutrients which is beneficial for plant growth and to increase the quality of soil. Bees and insects are the most common pollinators, but birds are important too and the plant that are pollinates by birds often have bright coloured petals and little scent this is because birds have strong sight for colours, but rarely any sense of smell. Birds creates many nests, tree holes, and even borrows in their lifetime and once they pass away these structures can provide shelter for other wildlife which is important to the ecosystem. (www.earthreminder.com).

Sea birds play a key role in recycling nutrient and helping to fertilise marine ecosystem such as coral reefs and according to the Birdlife international a study on the chagos island shows that when coral reefs thrive fish grow larger and faster for their age compare to the island that have invasive sea bird predators therefore to protect the sea birds, regulation should be placed on fishing and the introduction of more protected marine parks. Habitat loss is one of the main reasons bird populations are in decline therefore the best way we can save our local species of birds is to make our outdoor spaces bird friendly by making some bird houses in our garden and providing foods such as nuts or seeds and for the birds to have access to water for drinking and bathing. (www.birdlife.org)

Early morning exploration









For my John Meir award watching sun rise was the best felling which I cannot explain with words it is indescribable it is a natural beauty one can only experience it with their eyes and feel it in their heart because it is an irreplaceable scene to watch when the rays of the sun was was slowly coming out through the sky and I was looking through the trees and at the same time birds were chirping, singing with their most sweet voice ever and they were very loud and relaxing sounds. I went to the same place later to see if the sunrise looks the same, but it was not the same, the feel in the wind was different, the chorus of the birds were different. Early morning chorus is very sweet and melody and relaxing compared to the other times of the day.
(www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Making bird feeder, bird house and water feeder







Making bird feeder, bird house and water feeder

This is the first time we have a bird feeder in our garden therefore we might have to wait a little while before the birds come to visit our feeder, but once they know it is there they are highly likely to return for the foods and shelter .In future I am thinking to have more than an one feeding station to attract different birds. In future I will plant some bird friendly plants such as wildflowers which can attract insect that bird will love to feed on them and that way I can supply birds with food while filling my garden with gorgeous flower display. (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Together with my children we made a bird house out of the rubbish that we throw away such as plastic bottles which was a was a creative way to reduce the amount of rubbish we throw away and together with my children we watched some tubes videos of how to make bird feeders and bird house free of cost and it was fun, creative, problem solving and most importantly there was lot of metacognitive talk and sustain share thinking was involved in that activity.
my children loved it and we had a age appropriate discussion on how the natures food chain works and what will happen to our earth if one of the chain is broken and where it can lead us in future, we had a discussions on birds habitats and our dos and don'ts towards that species so it is that about making children aware of non-human part of the nature and it links to one of the 4 purpose of new curriculum to become ethical citizen to the country every child has a role to play to keep our eco system and our bio diversity alive and running. (www.londonhouseclearance.co.uk)











