

Sustainability in the Early Years



ECEY600/C

The Gordon Moore Centre

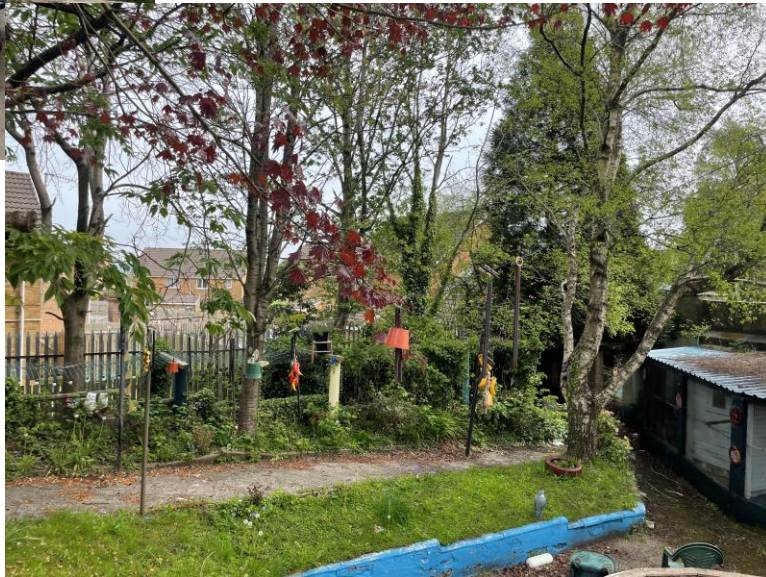


Friends of the Young Disabled

300 Carmarthen Road, Swansea

Discover

The size and beauty of the garden area was often masked by parked cars, but after actually taking time to walk down the garden via the ramp access I was able to see how big it actually was and the amount of plant life that actually lived there.



There was unfortunately a lot of litter that was scattered throughout the garden.



Discover & Explore

Bluebells

Nasturtium

Orchids, Irises and Allies

Dicots



Garden tulip

Birch Tree

Explore

Bluebells

- Has multiple names (bluebell, wild hyacinth witches thimbles)
- Is illegal to intentionally pick or uproot
- There is a English and a Spanish version
- Takes a long time to establish colonies 5-7 years

(National trust, no date)

Dicots

- short for dicotyledon
- Which is the one of the two groups flowering plants are divided
- There are around 200,000 groups species within this group

Nasturtium

- Completely edible and delicious on a salad
- Attracts pests away from vegetable patches
- Helps in pollination
- Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds because of its bright colours

(Balcony garden web, 2021)

Birch tree

- Ecologically provides forest food for multiple species.
- Known for its silver white bark and bright leaves
- Releasing lots of pollen

(New world encyclopaedia, no date)

Garden Tulips

- Bright attractive colours to species such as bees and butterflies
- Inexpensive and can be grown indoors and outdoors
- Will bloom in spring

Irises

- Illegal to pick on national lands
- Can grow 2 feet tall
- Attracts bees and butterflies
- The plant is toxic and not edible for humans however is eaten by lots of insects

Orchids

- Currently being research for their impact battling climate change
- Approximately 52 species of wild orchid in Britain
- Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)



Explore

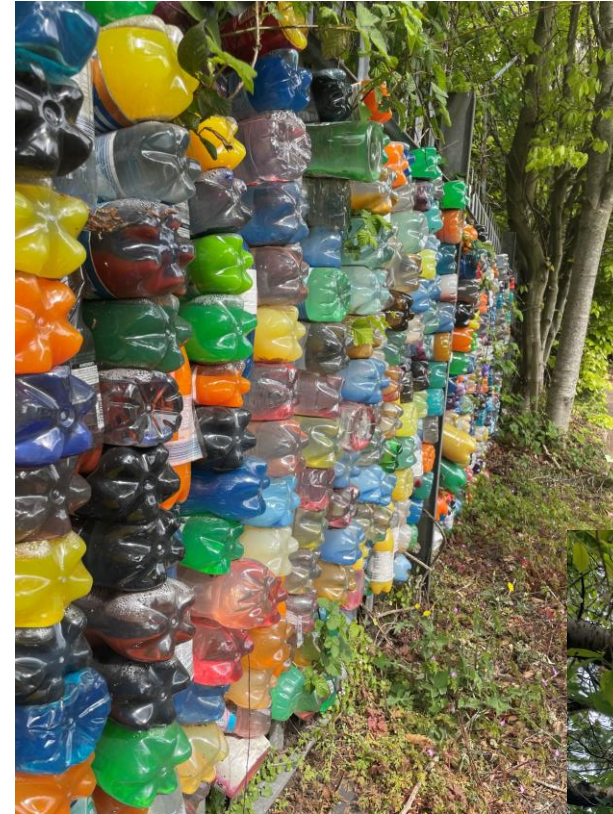
When exploring the garden, I also identified some home made sensory displays and activities.



Each had been made using recyclable materials and on discussion with my manager she confirmed that in previous years the garden had been used more than it has been post covid, and despite how lovely the current environment it, she is hoping to further improve the area, and is in the process of applying for grants and bursaries form the local authority.



Together we discussed how we could do this and using my knowledge and understanding of the benefits children receive by being outdoors and engaging with the natural environments I shared ideas to help make improvements through activities which can be used to extend the knowledge and understanding of the children I care for.



Recycled bottles had previously been painted and /or filled with water and food colouring to make a homemade music wall that was bright colourful and engaging.

Shop bought metal and China animal decorations and homemade windchimes to create soft sounds for the children to listen too was also made and placed into the garden, to make it more homely.



Conserve

- ❖ Participating in the John Muir award has made me be more aware of the natural world around me. I understand the importance of conserving environments in order to protect plants, nature and wildlife. In order to conserve the gardens of the Friends Of The Young Disabled building it was clear that the area needed to be cleared of litter.
- ❖ This is a task that I was happy to take on, and much to my surprise it didn't take long to gather all of the rubbish from the area. I bagged the litter and instead of placing it in the general waste bin, I did a little bit more for the environment I sorted and recycled the litter appropriately.

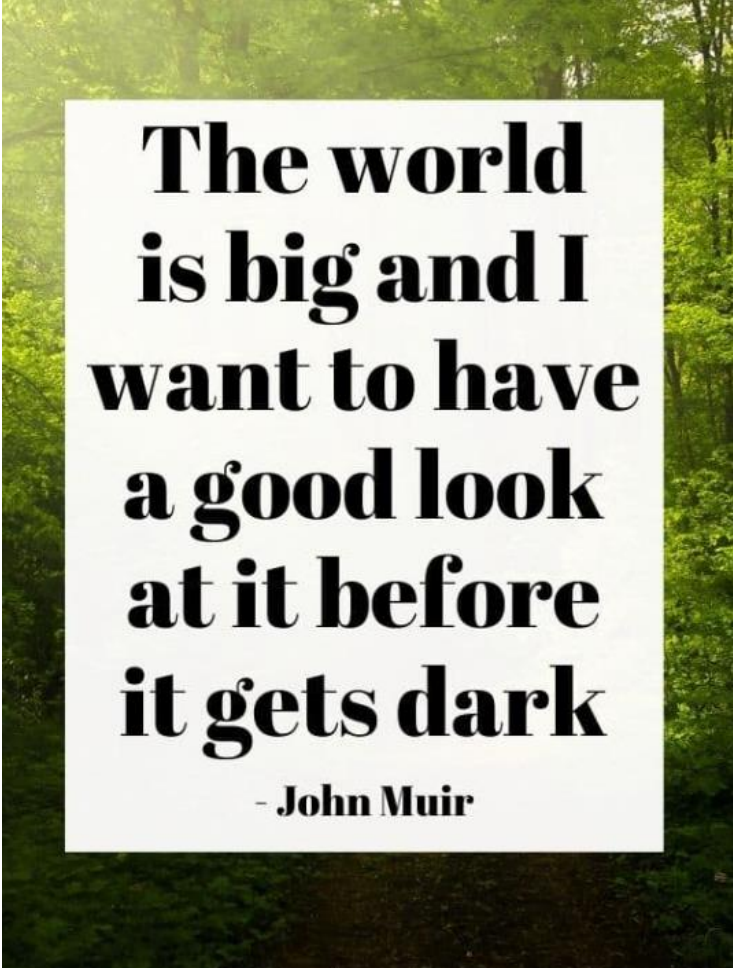


Conserve

Following on from clearing the area of litter, I also felt inspired to further enhance the area to help creature a more green environment. To conserve the area further and protect the plant life and wildlife that live in the environment, I have made plans to make bug hotels, bird feeders and hedgehog houses from recyclable materials as well as planting new flowers for the summer to attract more bees and butterflies.

Make a simple hedgehog house





**The world
is big and I
want to have
a good look
at it before
it gets dark**

- John Muir

Reflection

- ▶ Prior to this module and my participation in the John Muir Award, my involvement in natural spaces around me was non-existent. However, since I have expanded my knowledge and understanding of the importance of interacting with the environment around me and Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, and I am now very invested in the world around me. The John Muir award is an inspiring way to increase active participation with the natural world.

Look up, Look around,
There's more to life than looking
down,
Scrolling thumbs and rushing around,
let's be done
There's a world out there,
Don't miss out,
Let's go explore it

CAITLIN BAXTER

The image features a quote by John Muir. The text is centered within a white rectangular box. The background of the entire image is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. On the right side, there is a large, abstract geometric shape composed of several overlapping triangles in various shades of green, extending from the top right towards the bottom right.

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