



Regaining Paradise? Sustainability in the Early Years

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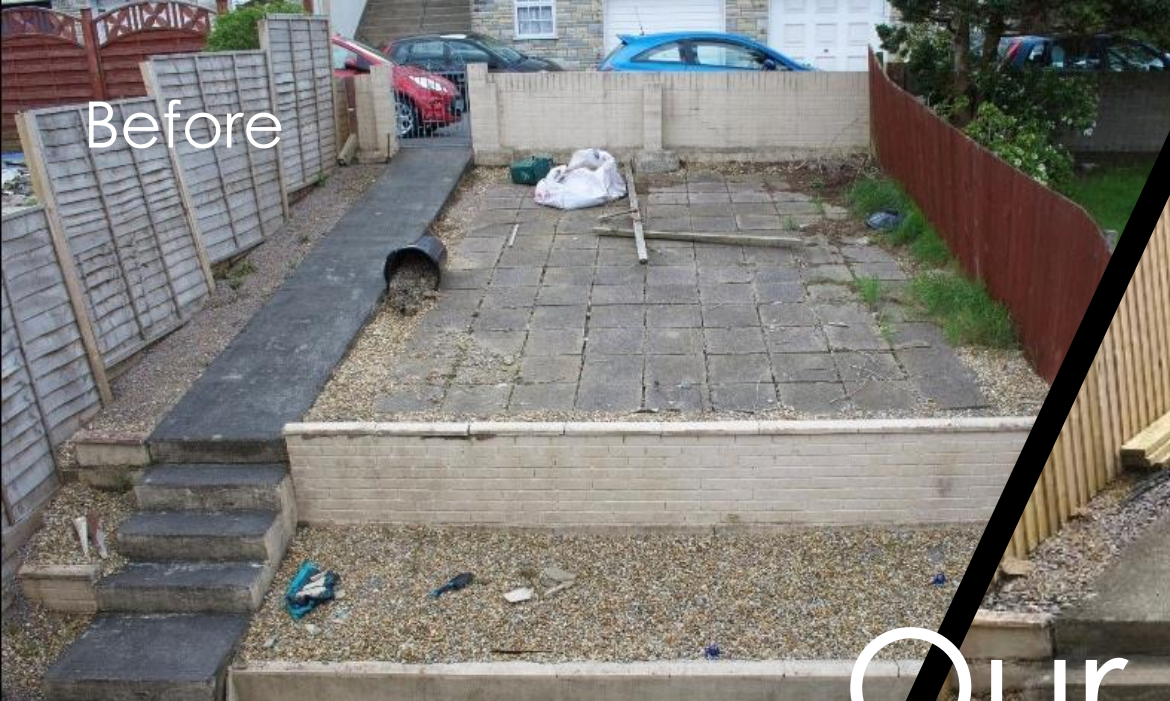
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Discover

- ▶ We recently decided to re design our garden as we found our garden to be a bit of a concrete jungle and wasn't very stimulating or a fun area for my two small children to explore and discover.
- ▶ After finishing the garden, we found that even though the garden was now a more visually appealing garden and a safer environment for my children it didn't tick of my main purpose of the garden which was to make it an area for my children to explore and discover.
- ▶ Through Doing this award I saw that not only was my garden not somewhere for my children to discover it also wasn't an area that was appealing and attractive for wildlife to visit.



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Our Garden!



Discover

- ▶ We live on a mountainside that has been completely left to nature and can often hear Owls calling to each other from the treetops and the croaks of frogs in the summer months.
- ▶ We discovered many types of birds and butterflies amongst the bracken and foliage on the mountainside.



The Amazing Birds That we saw!

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House Sparrow



Chaffinch



Robin



Blackbird



The Amazing Animals That We Saw!



Garden Worms



Woodlice

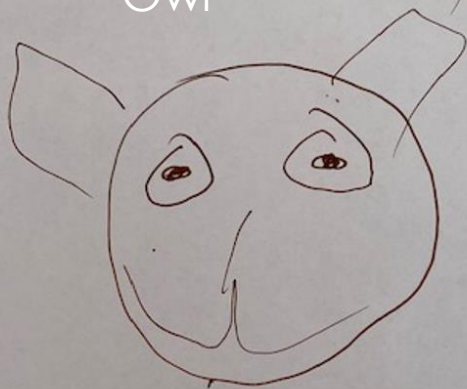
British Ladybirds



Ants

Exploring

Owl



Bee



- ▶ Myself and my children set out to see if we could find any animals and wildlife in our garden. After searching for a while, we saw very few animals apart from a ant or two. I then decided that we had to do something to create this area into somewhere that would attract animals and creatures into.
- ▶ I sat down with my children and asked them what animals they would like to see in our garden. These are the pictures of the animals that they wanted to see in our area.
- ▶ My son also said he would like to grow some strawberries as well.

Planting Flowers

The children enjoyed getting their hands dirty to add the soil and plant the flowers.



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Flowers that we planted!

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Strawberries

My son loved watching the flowers grow and especially enjoyed picking and eating them once they'd turned red!



Bug Hotels That We Created

- ▶ The children had great fun creating the bug hotels. They collected all the leaves, twigs and pinecones from our local park and mountainside.

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Animals That Made The Bug Hotels

A Home



After the bug hotels being outside in our garden for a few weeks. We discovered many insets had made them their home. As well as insects we also see Bees going in and out of the houses on a daily basis.





Conserve

- ▶ By taking part in the John Muir award I have realised that I spent little time outdoors even though we enjoyed it when we did venture outdoors we still didn't do it often enough.
- ▶ Through doing the award I discovered that spending time enjoying our natural environment allowed me not only to learn about the variety of nature that I have in my back garden but also the enjoyment and quality time that I get with my children exploring together.
- ▶ As a family we have enjoyed creating the bug hotels by using bits of nature that my children collected, my family loved being a part of my award and learnt so much about the outdoors through participating.
- ▶ My children enjoyed choosing and planting the flowers in the garden as well as discussing what animals they thought we would get into our garden with the small changes that we made. They also enjoyed going outside daily to check on the strawberry plants to see if we had any strawberries growing as well as the responsibility that my son had to ensure that the plants were watered daily when we hadn't had any rain.

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RSPB

- ▶ Through doing this award I saw how much my children enjoyed learning about the different insects and animals that we have in Wales. Therefore myself and my husband decided that we should as a family become members of the RSPB.
- ▶ Through becoming wild family member our children receive magazines four times a year that is tailored to their age and jam-packed with wild inspiration. Along with beautifully illustrated bedtime stories, wild facts and fun activities.
- ▶ As well as this we received membership cards that allow us to visit RSPB run nature reserves around the country that will hopefully build on my children's enjoyment of the outdoors.



giving
nature
a home
rspb

RSPB
loyalty card

More for you, more for nature



Share

- ▶ After Creating the bug hotel and seeing all the creatures that made the hotel a home, my son wanted to take the hotel into school to show his friends in school.
- ▶ After myself and son explained to his teacher all about the bug hotel and why we made it and the importance of looking after nature and the benefit this will have on our environment. His teacher decided to discuss the importance of taking care of our environment and talked about the different bugs that could live inside a bug hotel. They decided as a class to make bug hotels to place outside in the yard of the school to attract creatures into the school.



Ideas to attract more insects and animals into your garden



Homes for bees



Homemade
Bird feeders



Bird Boxes