

My Garden

Sustainability in the Early Years
EAEE6005



Personal Image (2021).



Personal Image (2021).



Personal Image (2021).

Discover

As a child I have always been very lucky to grow up with a lovely garden full of wildlife such as squirrels, fish, birds and hedgehogs. When I was younger, I would spend hours outdoors and would always look forward to feeding the fish and refiling the birdfeeders. My mum is very passionate about our garden and years ago after cutting away all the natural greenery, to build two much needed sheds, she has spent years trying to reencourage the wildlife to visit.



Personal Image (2021).

Explore

Whilst exploring my garden I realized how much wildlife we had. Altogether I noticed birds, bees, squirrels, hedgehogs, bugs insects and the fish we care for in the ponds.

I noticed the vast number of flowers we have in our garden such as hydrangea's, honey suckles, lavender, strawberry plants, pansies and camelia's.

All the plants and flowers we have provide purpose to the garden weather it be for the bees, fish or just in general.

While exploring my garden I noticed how often the birds use the bird feeders we provide, I spent time over the weekend watching the garden and observed the birds visiting many times throughout the day to eat and drink.



Personal Image (2021).



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AMINALS AND CREATURES I HAVE SPOTTED **IN MY GARDEN**



Personal Image (2021).



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Personal Image (2021).

My Poem

Personal Image (2021).

This is my garden, full of nature all these animals that we must cater for.
We have fish in the pond and birds in the trees, oh how lovely they must be.
We must look after them and keep them safe, by feeding them and providing space.
I love my garden and want to protect it; its our family space and I will not forget it.
But do not forget all the animals that live here, because if we protect them, we help protect the world!



Personal Image (2021).

Conserve

The John Muir award has inspired me to spend more time in my garden and to watch and observe the things that we do for nature, although we try our best to provide for the animals that spend time in our garden one thing I noticed was all of our birdfeeders were plastic and as we know plastic is not good for the environment, as so many birds use our feeders they do tend to break and we end up replacing them frequently. I have decided to make my own feeders using oranges, peanut butter and bird seed. These feeders are fully degradable and are good for the environment.



This is the birdfeed mixture consisting of oranges, peanut butter and birdseed.



This was the finished result once I scooped the mixture into the orange skins. I then proceeded to hang them around my garden.

During this process, I learnt a lot about ESDGC and decided to take this activity into my setting as I believed it would be beneficial to both the environment and the children. I do not think we do enough in work to encourage natural wildlife into our garden. The children loved the activity and really enjoyed learning about all the different kinds of birds. Instead of oranges like I used previously we used card rolled into tubes which we then covered in peanut butter and birdfeed. We hung these on trees and made this into a separate activity. We continued to focus on nature and wildlife throughout the rest of the week and spent time looking and talking about other animals that enter our garden and what we can do to help and provide them



This is a photo of the homemade bird feeder after the birds had eaten the contents.

The birdfeeders I made at work with the children.



We also spoke about how using lots of plastic is bad for the environment, plastic usually takes around 450-1000 years to decompose, plastic is also made out of unsustainable products such as coal, crude oil and natural gas all which are bad for our environment. Not only does plastic cause harm to our world but it can also cause harm to animals. Plastic often ends up in the sea, where sea creatures go on to digest it, it is also known to trap animals and cause harm that way. We spent the week talking about litter and what we can do to stop litter in our school. The children suggested a litter pick, so we made this into an activity and had lots of fun. We changed some of our plastic school resources to eco-friendly ones and discussed the dangers plastic can have to animals. While teaching the children about our excessive use of plastic I learned a lot myself and will be taking a lot of what I learned into practice.