

Learning and development – outside

It is very easy to meet children’s learning and development needs outside – without fancy equipment or signs and labels on everything!

Here is a quick reminder of some simple, mostly free ideas... I am not trying to teach you to suck eggs... you can use the ideas to monitor your own provision and don’t forget to evidence them in your observations of children’s day-to-day play...

Communication and language	Physical development	PSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make talking tubes or use walkie talkies • Learn the names of plants and trees together • Chat about what you are doing • Plan outside singing sessions • Go on a listening walk • Provide cosy spaces for children to sit and chat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide child-sized tools for digging and weeding • A few ride on toys, a small slide and plenty of space to run around • Hand washing opportunities • Grow fruit and vegetables to promote healthy eating • Children do their own risk assessments and consider dangers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children to work together and share experiences • Talk about home likes and dislikes in the garden • Grow some herbs for sensory learning • Marvel together at the miracle of plants and flowers • Allow children to watch the clouds or sit and do nothing

Literacy	Maths	Understanding the world	Art and design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take books outside – create a reading area • Provide pencils and clipboards so children can mark make • Plan a letter hunt with clues • Display children’s artwork with their names attached • Chalk / white board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show children how to do rubbings – look at patterns • Use leaves to learn about shapes and sizes • Explore symmetry in nature • Talk about the passing of the seasons • Number parking spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch insects – make a bug hotel • Learn about the weather • Take the dance mat outside • Look at outside play pictures on the computer together to inspire • Plant flowers to learn about life cycles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use old pots and pans for a band • Pretend to be explorers • Set up a messy tray • Take painting outside with water and big brushes • Paint nature – snowdrops, buttercups etc are easy finger paintings

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction books support learning about animals, birds, the weather etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weigh and measure in the messy tray • Count and sort shells • Weigh, measure etc in messy play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blow bubbles • Build with large blocks • Make bird food • Collect leaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaving on the fence • Chalk on the patio • Painting at the easel
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More blogs and other sources of outside play ideas –

<http://www.childmindinghelp.co.uk/forum/activity-ideas/123094-outside-play-ideas.html>

<http://www.teachpreschool.org/2013/05/five-tips-for-taking-preschool-journals-outside/>

<http://knutsfordchildminding.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/daily-outside-play-and-childminders.html>

<http://www.childmindinghelp.co.uk/forum/blogs/sarah707/72-outside-play-some-ideas-inspiration.html>

Outside art - <http://knutsfordchildminding.blogspot.co.uk/2008/05/outside-art.html>

Enhancing outside literacy – <http://nurturestore.co.uk/literacy-outside>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/701241076563969/?stream_ref=2

Enhancing outside maths – another useful resource for enhancing your CPD on the Independent Childminders Facebook group in files -

https://www.facebook.com/groups/independentchildminders/718215358199874/?stream_ref=2