

The Sense of Place Foundation Stage CD

Welcome to the Sense of Place Foundation Stage CD!

The writers and contributors are pleased to offer you, the Foundation Stage practitioner, a varied selection of interesting activities and very high quality resources to use in your setting. You can adopt or adapt the 'Units' and 'Activities' to suit your needs, whatever the location and character of your setting.

We would like to draw your attention to the following points:

- Look at the 'Curriculum Overview Sheets' and then decide if these can be matched to your existing coverage, perhaps using your established themes to guide you.
- Consider using any of the suggested 'Units' and their 'Activities' to complement or replace your own setting's established Foundation Stage curriculum coverage.
- To do this, consider the Learning Objectives or Early Learning Goals that are identified in your long term planning and then match these to any of the suggested 'Units' or 'Activities' you wish to incorporate into your planning.
- Remember that your overall coverage of the Foundation Stage curriculum has to remain secure, and should be based on the QCA Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage.
- The 'Activities' in each unit follow a suggested sequence but they can be placed in an order that suits your particular needs.
- Activities give settings many tasks and coverage ideas to follow. Of course you, the practitioners, are the people who know your children the best and you will understand the level at which the activities should be introduced to the children.
- Make sure the 'Activities' are adapted so they are not too hard or too easy for the children to enjoy in your setting. *For example*, you would not want very young children to be trying to measure ingredients used for cooking in standard units such as grams or millilitres, nor would we ever suggest that three and four year olds should be writing stories!

Please do make certain that the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage and of course the 'Stepping Stones' and 'Early Learning Goals' continue to guide your interpretation of any 'Activities' that you might like to adapt to suit and meet the children's and the setting's needs.

This unit concentrates on encouraging children to investigate the local environment. They play with, and explore the different natural objects that can be found outside any setting in Cornwall. It builds on the work of Sandie Hawkey and the 'Kernow Woodland Learning' project. The suggested activities can be planned for and prepared in the grounds of the setting or take place on a visit to a natural environment such as parkland, natural wasteland, the grounds of schools or on specific visits to wooded areas, for example, Tehidy Woods or the Luxulyan Valley. It focuses on, and encompasses the learning intentions for, 'All Around Us' and 'Out and About', from the 'Footsteps' materials.

The top priority for practitioners is to promote the notion that it is completely acceptable for children to play outside, as long as they are safe and watched closely. Using the suggested activities as a starting point, children will discover that it is perfectly alright to explore, investigate and get muddy hands and perhaps wet.

NB: Appropriate clothing is a must! Wellies and waterproofs to the fore!!

To introduce the unit to the children, Activity 1 takes their thoughts and ideas outside the setting. They are encouraged to imagine which animals might live outside the building and what natural objects they could use to create a shelter for 'Archie the Adgyboar'. From then on the suggested activities develop into exploring how all kinds of objects such as sticks, leaves, bark, mud and water etc. can all provide hours of fun and learning opportunities

The finale to this unit is to build a camp fire and make this the centre piece of a celebration. The children will get to see how the natural materials they have been playing with can also be very useful for light, heat and cooking. They have experienced exploring and playing with sticks, twigs and leavesnow they are going to see them burn!

NB Risk assessments and Health and Safety issues are addressed within the unit.

Foundation Stage CD – Acknowledgements

1. Boys and Girls Come Out to Play

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