







Developing Outdoor Drovision in the Early Years Foundation Stage









MAKING A PRINT AND NUMBER RICH OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

- Permanent playground markings can be used to promote literacy and numeracy, e.g. number lines/tracks, alphabet grids, games such as hopscotch or snakes and ladders, etc.
- Weave ribbons or fabric through chain link fences to make numerals and letters.
- Outdoor equipment should be labelled to promote numeracy, e.g. workers' hats labelled with numerals and matched to row of hooks on fence.
- Wheeled toys can be labelled and parked in "garages" or parking spaces with the matching number.
- Alphabet and number lines at child height (laminated for durability).
- "Real" washing lines with clothing numbered from 1 to 10.
- Large magnetic boards with numerals and letters.
- Large foam/plastic numerals and letters.
- Number and alphabet beanbags.
- Large floor game mats with giant foam/rubber dice.
- Skittles and balls (how many can you knock down?)
- Hoops for jumping into and counting
- Clipboards for scoring and tallying
- Books available for outdoor use could have special "outdoor box" rugs, cushions for comfort.
- Action songs can be louder and take up more room, e.g. children can be the "five speckled frogs" jumping into the pool, etc.

Print resources

- Alphabet friezes at child height
- Large magnetic boards with letters
- Large foam/plastic/wooden letters.
- Letter beanbags.
- Large floor alphabet mat
- Clipboards, with attached pen/pencil for recording
- Books available for outdoor use could have special "outdoor box" rugs, cushions for comfort
- Range of mark making equipment
- Range of writing formats/stationery
- Range of reading materials; fiction books, reference books, magazines, brochures, posters
- Seed packets and gardening brochures







Number resources

- Number lines at child height (laminated for durability)."Real" washing lines with clothing numbered from 1 to 10.
- Large magnetic boards with
 numerals
- Large foam/plastic numerals
- Number beanbags.
- Large floor game mats with giant foam/rubber dice.
- Numbered Skittles and balls (how many can you knock down?)
- Hoops for jumping into and counting
- Clipboards for scoring and tallying
- Action songs props ie 5 numbered currant buns etc
- Calculators

Number lines!

- Horizontal and vertical?
- Beyond 10?
- Birthday cards
- 0-10 children
- Real objects: pencils, lego etc
- Multi-sensory ie sandpaper, glue and glitter
- 10 green bottles
- Clothes



Art/Design

Picnic tables or portable desks A storage trolley containing art / craft resources, eg paint, chalk, scissors, glue Clips to hold paper on the tables Chalk to use on the ground Rolls of paper to attach to walls or fences for group art A wheeled box of junk art materials Clav and tools Clipboards Buckets, paint brushes and rollers for pretend painting of walls and paintings Squeezy bottles to squirt paint onto large sheets of paper A large chalk board fixed to the wall and made of varnished external plywood painted with easel / blackboard paint A selection of natural materials, eg pine cones, sawdust to mix or use for printing Laminated children's work displayed

outdoors under a covered way

Creative Arts Area

Weaving and sculpture Garden mesh or netting Garden trellis and willow panels Orange plastic builders mesh Oven trays Canes (tape the ends to protect eyes) Ribbons including floristry, lengths of shiny fabric, coloured plastic cut into strips(carrier bags) tinsel Old CDs, bells, beads, shells or other attractive items Carpet roll tubes Logs, and bits of tree Simple woodwork tools Dance: Ribbons, ribbon sticks, bubbles and balloons Feathers and leaves Scarves, pieces of voile fabric Soft pony tail bands Home made May-pole Wrist and ankle bells Maracas and castanets, hand drums World music on tapes





Music

Banging

A drum area including a metal dustbin, pots and pans mobile, logs and sticks, old PC cases, upturned metal buckets

Tapping

Old CD Roms hung on trees or fences Various lengths of piping strung together and suspended

at the children's height

A table tennis bat or flip flops to tap the tops of the pipes

Musical notes cut out of plastic, wood or metal and hung up. Children enjoy learning real naming words, so use

musical language when appropriate

Blowing Pipes Tubina

Cylinders

Scraping

Ridged car mats

Willow fencing

Sticks to trail along fences, walls and tree bark Clicking

An old computer mouse suspended by its cord **Splashing**

Hoses, buckets, rainmaker, bells, and triangles for water play

Add to these scrap materials by:

providing a range of commercially produced instruments stored in a wheeled trolley for ease of transportation, eg horns, drums, tambourines, recorders

collecting books / booklets of rhymes / songs for staff to use outdoors.

Movement Areas

WHEELED VEHICLE AREA **Wheeled Vehicles**

Prams Wedding car Scooters Wheelbarrows Tractors Taxi Ice cream van Fire engine Bus Step on trikes



Accessories Roadsigns **Traffic lights Driving licence** First-aid box Number plates Speed detector (old hairdryer) Road maps Car park tickets Road safety posters Traffic cones Picnic Postal Service

Roadwav

McDonald's drive-through **Building site** Driving test centre Grand Prix Car boot sale

Supermarket

Playground **Markings**

Road ways Roundabouts Crossings One way arrows Bicycle/pram lane Parking bays/disabled bays/mother and baby bavs Yellow no-parking lines

Contexts for Wheeled Vehicles Garage Car wash / mechanic / MOT

McDonald's drive-through Picnic Postal Service **Building site** Driving test centre Grand Prix Car boot sale Supermarket



SMALL EQUIPMENT AREA

Pegs, washing line Ticket and stampers/punchers Old cameras Mobile phones Bean bags Bats Quoits Balls of different shapes, colour, textures, sizes Skittles Laundry baskets Skipping ropes Cones Netball rings Markings on ground / walls for targets Suspended hoops Top Start equipment Egg timers Whistles



Movement Areas

Children who begin physical activity young experience more significant and longer lasting results.

In your setting, try to allocate a space for the physical activities of running, jumping, throwing and striking with a bat. If there is no such area outside, consider using a P.E. hall.

CLIMBING AREA Planks Slides Ladders A-Frames Crates Barrels Tunnels Large fixed equipment, where available Bars Rope ladders Tree trunk sections Portable modular system



Jumping

Stepping stones made from tree trunk sections, large floor 2D shapes, laminated coloured card P.E. mats to practise landing Rhymes and songs to encourage jumping, eg "One Little Speckled Frog"



Running

Cones to weave in and out of Crates or boxes to climb onto and jump off Ropes and chalk to encourage running in pathways

Whistles so children can start the races

A windy day box containing objects which stream behind the child. These may include a windsock, a kite, plastic bags and string, lengths of ribbon



Gardening / Wild

Plot of land where children can plant, tend and harvest flowers and vegetables A digging area Wooden boxes, tubs, plant pots, growbags, washing up bowl, a bucket, an old sink can be used if land is not available Camera to record change over time Books to record what happened Child-sized spades Trowels Forks Hoes Watering cans Hoses Canes Wheelbarrows Seeds/bulbs/plants A herb tub for smell comparisons An area left to grow naturally Old rotten logs or a piece of carpet to gather mini beasts An old sink or bathtub for water-loving mini beasts Magnifying glasses Gathering jars Pond dipping equipment Pencils and clipboards Reference books and books made by children and staff Bird tables, bird boxes and baths A wormery Themed play boxes – Sunny Day Box, Windy Day Box, Snowy Day Box, Rainy Day Box

Horticultural area





Digging Area

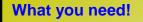
There needs to be a digging patch, separate from the horticulture area. This can be for building and construction works where children can build structures using mud, bricks and wood, or it can be for imaginative play, where children may be tunnellers or bury treasure. Spades with strong shafts Trowels Natural materials Bricks Stones Shells Peat Gravel **Pebbles** Bark Leaves Feathers Conkers Wooden blocks Firewood/sticks/logs Sand Pit Sand Water Water pistols Squirty bottles Targets to shoot water at **Buckets Brushes** Rakes Combs Moulds Sieves

Why have a mud Kitchen?

There is little more important in our physical world than earth and water and they are truly intriguing things, especially when they interact. Mixing soil, water and a range of other natural materials has a foundational role in early childhood which has deep importance and endless possibilities for well-being, development and learning. The breadth and depth of what these experiences offer young children is truly remarkable.

Mud kitchens provide something quite different to a soil digging patch, whilst also being much more easily managed. A mud kitchen includes elements of the much-loved domestic corner and cooking from indoor play, which are then hugely enriched through the special nature of being outside. Mud kitchens work well all year round, and need to be seen as a core element of continuous provision outside.

Developing a MUD KITCHEN!



A water supply Gravel, pebbles and other natural materials Plant material Pots, pans, kettles Spoons, ladles, forks etc Bowls, bottles, containers Sieves and colanders









Sand area

A covered sandpit offers the best solution to keep rain and animals out. Pits can be made by building a square of bricks or laying four railway sleepers on the ground. A tyre from a large tractor or heavy goods vehicle also acts as a solid wall, which can be filled with sand. Buckets and spades of different sizes Moulds Sieves Diggers, lorries, bulldozers Guttering Old pots Spoons Sticks Rakes, combs Twigs, shells Cardboard boxes Bricks Treasure – fake coins, play jewellery, maps Junk materials Sand wheels Watering cans Funnels Feathers Conkers





SAND AND WATER PLAY



Water Nature – rain, puddles, dew, frost, snow, etc. Umbrellas Wellington boots Decorator's painting brushes, sponges, rollers Rain barrel with a tap / outside tap Pots and pans **Buckets** Splash suits/overalls Guttering, drainpipes Paddling pool Rain measuring equipment, eg wide necked bottles for rain collection Hoses Watering cans Plastic spray bottles, squeezy bottles Large transparent plastic sheets, eg

- shower curtain
- Washing line and pegs Shampoo, bubble bath, shaving foam Bubble blowing equipment



Seating

Carpet squares Materials Blankets Chairs and cushions Table Crates Wooden seat enclosed with a pergola (if funding is available) Gazebos Deck and patio chairs Garden umbrellas Large pieces of cloth Travelling rugs over an A-frame or play house Tent or shed







Nature Watch Bird tables and feeders, small ponds, wildlife sanctuaries Streamers Quiet bells, windchimes Binoculars Beetle boxes Cameras Spotter's guide Weather chart

Screens and boundaries

Hedges, growing plants Trellis, net, clear plastic and fencing Low walls, paths, cones and lines Furniture brought out from inside

Protection

Sunshades Gazebos Awnings and parasols Screens of bamboo, willow Trees and bushes Planting tubs with herbs or other fragrant plants Umbrellas and wind breaks

Activities

Tape recorder Tapes – songs, stories, rhymes, sound games Books – reference and fiction Dictaphones / headphones Soft toys Language and mathematical games which cannot be blown by the wind Small motor-skill games Writing and drawing materials Mirrors and magnifiers Small world play Small construction

Sensory ideas

Herbs and scented flowers Tactile plants and surfaces/objects Natural objects Wind chimes, sound mobiles, pin wheels, wind catchers Sand/water Reflective surfaces/visual stimuli Pebbles Dream catchers Edible herbs -ie Dill

Quiet Reflective Area

Woodwork bench Wood off-cuts Logs, planks, balsa wood, hardwood, chipboard, plywood. Crates **Guttering Drain pipes** Builder's trays Real tools - hammers, pliers, hand drill Nails Nuts. bolts Gardening tools Ropes Plastic tubing Hose pipes Access to water - hose, water butt Wooden blocks Boxes - cardboard, wooden, plastic Masking tape Hammer, hand drills, saws, screwdrivers, pincers, sand paper, vice Spades Wheel-barrows Trollevs Builders' trowels Hard-hats Visibility tabards Wellington boots **Overalls** Tyres **Community blocks** Off cuts of carpet, rugs, canvas Ground sheets



Clothes horses Tents Buckets **Building blocks** Natural materials - stones, shells, twigs, leaves, bark and sand cork, gravel, straw Diggers, tractors, trailers Pulley system Clipboards Pens Spirit level, Tape measures, Measuring sticks and wheels Architect's plans, Maps Builder's chalk D.I.Y. books Homes magazines Design and construction magazines Construction site sign, ie, Hard Hats must be worn, Danger Keep Out Mobile phones Traffic cones Site warning tape Estate agent's signs Pictures of castles, houses, flats, airport terminals, office-blocks, ships, sailing boats, shops, cars, lorries, cranes, aeroplanes Fluorescent safety jackets - use life jackets, puffer vests, etc. Large sheets of paper for plans and sketches First-aid box Lunch boxes



Large and Small Construction areas



Equipment to support imaginative/constructive play:

Hospital, airport, garage, McDonald's

 House play – renovate a kitchen, bedroom, utility

room

- Camp site
- Igloo
- Desert island

*Equip each construction site above with relevant scene props, eg provide storage baskets, trolleys and boxes clearly labelled with equipment name and pictures.



Living things and natural resources Pets, Guinea pigs, rabbits, mice etc Stick insects Mini beasts Snails Fruit Vegetables Twigs/flowers Leaves/conkers Acorns/fir cones Feathers Wool Cotton Blossom/buds/bulbs Plants Shells

An Investigation Area

Collections of mechanical/technological items Things to assemble/disassemble Screwdrivers Radios Padlocks Cogs/wheels Spanners Locks and keys **Clockwork items Telephones** Cameras Nuts and bolts Collecting pots **Buttons Buckets**



Resources to investigate and experiment with:

Cogs and wheels Colour paddles Binoculars **Bug viewers** Torches **Balances** Mirrors Egg timers Magnifiers Kaleidoscopes Periscope Magnets Sieves **Pipettes** Feely bags Bubble blowers



Resources to record with: Pens Clipboards Information books Leaflets Video recorders Cameras Tape recorders



Some suggestions for outdoor role play Birthday party

- Party hats
- Cards and pencils
- Invitations
- Place settings for a set number of people (plates, cups etc)
- Streamers
- Wrapped presents
- Play food (can be made by the children)

Any type of shop

- Shop contents i.e shoes, hats, toys etc
- Cash register
- Money
- Shopping bags
- Labels to make price tags
- Paper to be receipts
- Purses/wallets
- Credit cards (old gift cards from places such as Debenhams, boots etc are useful)

Picnics

- Basket
- Flasks
- Cup, plates, bowls
- Blankets
- Food
- Maps/ directions

Car wash

- Sponges
- Window wipers
- Buckets
- Cloths and leathers
- Aprons
- Price list and display board advertising signs
- Money belts





Possible resources

Mark-making materials clipboards/paper/pens telephone computer keyboard till/money fiction/non-fiction books - linked to roleplay (change on a regular basis) pop-up tents/tunnels "A" frames with fabric Wheeled toys linked to role-play Dressing up clothes and accessories Pieces of fabric Large cardboard boxes Story Props Streamers/Ribbons **Bubbles** Blankets/Sheets for den building Small world equipment Lengths of hosing/tubing Carpet/Lino pieces/tiles Tents



Imaginative Role play

Possible Resources A-frames Planks - commercially made and cut to order by a DIY store Ladders Cubes Heavy pieces of material Plastic sheeting/tarpaulin Plastic crates - bread, milk, supermarket Blocks - wooden and plastic Large cardboard boxes Industrial tubing Cable spools (a variety of sizes up to one metre in diameter) Tree trunk sections, various sized pieces of wood Pieces of carpet and carpet square Tents Large cones Broom handles Hose pipe - cut to lengths for the firefighter and for sand and water play Large and small umbrellas Ropes and string Masking tape Elastic bands



Imaginative play Area

Contexts for imaginative role play

Ambulance Building/construction site Bus railway or airport Camping Garage/Carwash Drive through McDonald's Farm Pizza shop/Pizza delivery **Fire-fighters** Garden centre Market stall Police Picnic Fairy-tale castle **Dinosaur** land Ice cream seller Librarv Post office Pirate's ship Campsite Road safety Zoo Igloo

Wheeled vehicles, large and small Trucks, hay carts, wooden pushchairs, prams, buggies, scooters, wheelbarrows **Trolleys with a host of props** Dressing up clothes – overalls, rubber gloves, aprons, uniforms, dresses, cowboy and Native American outfits Accessories such as bags and hats, sunglasses, hard hats, police hats, suitcases, baskets Holiday equipment - backpacks, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, picnic bags Builders' tools and equipment - mallets, screwdrivers, spirit levels, pulleys DIY tools and tool belts Mechanics' tools Decorators' tools - brushes, pots Ropes and pegs Gardening tools - shovels, spades. watering cans Home tools - cameras, mobile phones, personal stereos, binoculars, umbrellas, money, purses, tickets, cards Fire-fighter equipment Doctor's bag and equipment



SUGGESTIONS FOR PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Climbers

Convolvulus Ivy Morning Glory Honeysuckle Nasturtiums Hop (Humulus) Boston Vine (Parthenocissus) Glory Vine (Vitis Coignetiae) Sweet peas



Sun lovers

Pinks/Carnations (Dianthus) Aubretia Ice plant (Sedum) Houseleek (Sempervivum) Blue lily (Agapanthus) Pansies Daisies (Bellis) Marigolds (Calendula) Erigeron (daisy flowers) Geraniums Helichrysum (everlasting) Chinese Lantern (Physalis) Golden Rod **Nasturtiums** Verbena Mesembryanthemum Achillea (Yarrow) Montbretia (Crocosmia) Poached-egg plant (Limnanthes Douglasii)

Shade lovers

Hostas Ivy Primula/primrose Violets Periwinkle (Vinca) Dead nettle (Lamium) Forget Me Nots (Myosotis) Lady's Mantle (Achemilla) Astilbe Granny's Bonnet (Aguilegia) Bleeding Heart (Dicentra)



Tubs and baskets

Pansies Alyssum Busy Lizzie (Impatiens) Petunia Marigold (Tagetes) Begonia Harebell (Campanula) Lobelia Mimulus Viola Lobelia



Fast growers

Morning Glory Nasturtiums Sweet peas Sunflowers Busy Lizzie (Impatiens) Golden Hop (Humulus) Boston Vine (Parthenocissus) Glory Vine (Vitis Coignetiae)



Ground dwellers

Periwinkle (Vinca) Anthemis (Chamomile) Thyme (Thymus) Candytuft (Iberis) Speedwell (Veronica) Hardy geranium Rock rose (Helianthemum) Ground cover roses (Rosa)



Evergreen / Winter interest Grasses Cyclamen Heathers Myrtle (Myrtus) Flax (Phormium)	Perfumed foliage Myrtle (Myrtus) Pelargoniums Choysia	Perfumed flowers Pinks (Dianthus) Alyssum Wallflowers
Bulbs Crocuses Snowdrops Hyacinth Small daffodils Grape hyacinth (Muscari)	Everlasting flowers Straw flowers (Bracteantha) Limonium Love in a Mist (Nigella) Helichrysum Chinese Lanterns (Physalis) Or you could sow some wild flower seeds in a patch of grass which is left to grow taller than the rest.	
SUGGESTIONS FOR SHRUBS		
Climbers Wisteria Thornless Blackberries Cotoneaster horizontalis Honeysuckle	Sun lovers Lavender Berberis Wygela Shade lovers	Perfumed trees Eucalyptus Perfumed flowers Lavender

Passion flower (Passiflora)	Hydrangea St John's Wort (Hypericum) Spiraea Convolvulus Ivy Morning Glory	Philodelphus Daphne Wisteria Lilac (Syringa)
Fast growers Morning Glory Kerria (grows anywhere)	Spiny or prickly Holly Mahonia Pryocanthus Gorse (Ulex)	Screening Cotoneaster (prickly) Box (Buxus) Forsythia Lavender (Lavandula) Currant (Ribes) Lonerica Black bamboo (Phyllostachis) Striped bamboo (Pleioblastus)
Evergreen / Winter interest Cornus (Red stems) Choysia	Trees Birch (Betula) Rowan (Sorbus) Crab apple (Malus)	Flowering Butterfly bush (Buddleia) Ceanothus (Blue) Hebe (low growing)

Clematis Eucalyptus Yucca Hazel (Corylus) Tassel Bush (Garrya Eliptica) Willow (Salix) Viburnum	Plum and Cherry (Prunus)	Prunus (flowering)
Berries Cotoneaster horizontalis Hawthorn (Crataegus) Holly (Ilex) Firethorn (Pyracantha) Rowan (Sorbus)		
SUGO	GESTIONS FOR FOOD PL	ANTS
Climbers Thornless blackberries Tomatoes French/runner beans, peas Marrows, squashes, cucumbers, courgettes Or try a grape vine!	Sage (Salvia officinalis) Nasturtiums Onions (Allium) Garlic Most herbs	Tubs and pots Small varieties of apples and pears (make sure you have a self-fertile type, or plant two) Strawberries French or runner beans, peas and cucumbers grow up sticks or trellis Tomato plants grow in tubs or grow bags Ornamental cabbages

		Potatoes in buckets Basil and parsley
Herbs Marjoram (Origanum) Thyme (Thymus) Rosemary (Rosemarinus) Cotton lavender (Santolina) Lemon thyme (Melissa Officinalis) Mint (Mentha) Chives Fennel Basil Dill	Fast growersCarrotsBeansLettuceMarrowsPumpkinsRadishesSpinach	Attractive to insects and butterflies Butterfly bush (Buddleia) Sedum Alyssum Calendula Dianthus Myosotis Solidago Aster Ceanothus Lavender (Lavandula)
Decorative Kohlrabi Red cabbage Ornamental cabbage Artichokes and cardoons Alliums, leeks and onions		

Outdoor provision audit 3-5 year olds

Observation considerations	Comments from observation – how do we know?	Future development considerations - what do we need to do to develop quality
Are Indoors and outdoors viewed as on combined and integrated environment. ?		
 Indoors and outdoors available to the children simultaneously? 		
• Outdoors is an equal player to indoors. It receives planning, management, evaluation, resourcing, staffing and adult interaction on a par with indoors.		
Outdoors is both a teaching and learning environment.		
 Outdoor design and layout has been given careful consideration. 		
 Outdoor play is recognised by all as being central to young children's learning. 		
• The outdoor classroom offers children the opportunity to utilise effective modes of learning – play, movement and sensory experience.		
Children have access to versatile equipment and		

environments.	
Children are able to control, change and modify their environment.	
Staff are supportive toward outdoor play.	
Personal, social and emotional development	
Children will have opportunities to: • develop confidence, self-esteem and a sense of security	
• develop independence as they acquire new skills, eg children plan, choose and organise equipment for the day/week, manage the transition from inside to outside play co-operatively, and share resources	
 care for themselves and their personal safety 	
 take care of the outside environment with respect and concern 	
 become aware of and respect the needs and feelings of others, and reflect this in their behaviour 	
learn to follow rules	
 develop tolerance and perseverance 	

explore experiment and be adventurous.	
Physical development	
Children will have opportunities to • enjoy physical play and the sense of freedom and well-being it brings	
 begin to understand the importance of physical activity for good health and fitness 	
 develop spatial awareness and how to share space safely with others 	
 move confidently with increasing control and imagination 	
 acquire essential movement skills like: Balance – develop co-ordination and control of body actions by using equipment; playing games; walking along chalk lines, rope pathways, small balancing beams, climbing equipment, and stepping stones; building using large equipment, and carrying heavier objects 	
 Locomotion – focusing on basic motor skills such as running, jumping and moving the body around in different ways, eg games like "What's the Time Mr Wolf?" or "Simon Says" 	

 Manipulative skills – using equipment to develop aiming, predicting and estimating techniques, eg throwing balls into containers or through hoops experience the vocabulary of movement and words of instruction Understand simple rules and use tools and equipment appropriately, safely and with increasing control. 	
Communication and Language	
Children will have opportunities to: • talk about their experiences in the outdoor environment	
talk about features of the outdoor environment	
 use language to describe, explain, predict, and ask questions 	
 interact and converse with adults and peers to extend language 	
develop ideas and follow directions and Instructions	
• listen, respond and link language with physical movement in action songs and rhymes, role play and practical experiences	

• talk, listen and interact with each other in all areas, including a quiet space.	
Literacy	
Children will have opportunities to: • access a wide range of texts – books, leaflets, catalogues, reference materials, magazines, posters, maps, charts	
 enjoy stories, rhyme and songs in the outdoor environment 	
• experience a variety of meaningful print (eg labels, symbols, signs, and directions), and begin to understand some purposes for reading.	
 experiment with early writing using water and rollers, brushes, chalk, sand and paint, clipboards and pencils 	
 use their drawings, written marks or writing to express their ideas and feelings 	
 see themselves and adults using writing for a purpose, and discuss and agree the best way to present the writing, eg lists, messages and reminders 	
write during role play and other activities	
Mathematics Children will have opportunities to:	

 sort and categorise resources, equipment and naturally occurring objects 	
 identify, understand and use numbers – both cardinal and ordinal, eg numbers on parking bays, number lines, number plates, counting games, rhymes, jingles and stories 	
 develop appropriate mathematical language through counting games, rhymes, jingles and stories 	
 recognise, explore and create patterns, shapes and colours, eg with leaves, pebbles and 2D shapes 	
 match objects, eg match photographs with outdoor features compare size, length, capacity and weight, eg playing on a see-saw 	
 experience and talk about the routine and the passing of the time of day, the week, months and seasons 	
 investigate and talk about patterns, colours and shapes in the outdoor environment, eg shapes of trees, leaves and clouds 	
 sort, design, plan and build with a range of 3D shapes 	
 explore spatial awareness through the different types of movement, eg balance, locomotion and manipulation 	
 begin to understand and use positional and directional 	

words – forwards, backwards, in front of, behind, above and below	
 use mathematical language such as heavy, light, full, empty, long, short etc., in relevant contexts. 	
Understanding the world	
Children will have opportunities to: • develop their powers of observation by using their senses, eg access to tools such as magnifying glasses	
 recognise objects by sight, sound, touch, smell, taste, eg multisensory Garden 	
 ask questions, experiment, design, make and solve problems, eg use flexible equipment that encourages experimentation like guttering and bricks 	
 recognise and experience that some things change over time, eg trees during autumn and clothes people wear 	
 talk about and experience features in their local environment, such as the school setting and community 	
 care for and respect living things and handle them sensitively, eg a wormery 	
 listen to stories while outside about people and places, eg 	

fairy stories	
 talk with adults and other children about themselves, their home, their setting and people who work within the setting and local community 	
 use drama/imaginative play to communicate their understanding of events, eg jobs done by people in the community or a barbeque 	
 record what they have seen, made, found out (individually and in groups), eg through drawings, photographs, paintings, models and simple maps 	
 explore through first-hand experience, eg properties of materials and sounds in the environment 	
 become aware of everyday technology and develop the skills to use tools for woodwork, construction and gardening, including cutting, sticking, folding, pouring, joining and taking apart 	
 learn about themselves by talking with adults and engaging in role play, eg "fire station" or "ambulance depot" 	
 talk about their observations and predict what will happen if water is added to sand, hand is placed on an icy surface, plants are not watered, etc. 	
 experiment, eg to find out how water will move from one 	

piece of guttering to another or how some objects float and others sink	
 talk about environmental issues (eg litter and recycling), and how to nurture these in the school environment. 	
Expressive arts and design	
Children will have opportunities to: • explore a variety of materials and appreciate colour, shape, texture and sound at vertical and horizontal levels	
• experience a variety of media and techniques such as painting, drawing, mark making, modelling and printing, both large and small scale	
• develop their sense of spatial awareness through the use of 3D and other materials, eg working with recyclable materials to shape, rearrange and create environments supporting imaginative play	
 observe and experience outdoor characteristics using all of their senses. 	
 listen and respond to a variety of sounds, rhythms and songs in the outdoor environment 	
 make music by vocal sounds, body sounds, singing, clapping and playing percussion instruments with extended 	

volume
make and use instruments to invent music which expresses thoughts and feelings
participate in simple dances and singing games
Iisten to and recognise sounds in the outdoor environment
 use outdoor features as a stimulus for music
 plan, design and engage in stimulating role play, which encourages them to play co-operatively, negotiate roles, agree rules and act out scenarios
• express their thoughts, ideas, feelings and imagination with confidence, enhancing self-esteem and oral language
 link imaginative play scenes inside and out, providing much more scope for large movement, noisy play and involving the whole child
 Access a wide range of equipment, resources and props to promote quality outdoor play.