

Communication & Language

- Discuss the seasonal changes around us, take a learning walk to the garden and look for signs of growing.
- Talk about what they see at the farm- ask different questions. What makes all the animals different?
- Sing rhymes and songs linked to the topic.
- Share stories about farms/farmers.
- Discuss animals and their babies. How are they different/similar?
- Discuss initial sounds; I spy at the farm.
- Create a pond scene in an activity tray using green slime or jelly, encourage the children to use their knowledge to talk about growing. E.g., plants and animals.

Physical Development

- Create a digging area where children can explore a range of garden tools, such as trowels, spades, rakes, forks, and watering cans.
- Moving in a variety of different ways both indoors and outdoors- with confidence.
- Small world area, house, farm, animals, and people.
- Building using construction equipment; build a shed/pen for the animals.
- Create actions to songs/rhymes.
- Scissor skills linked to topic.
- Plant seeds and watch them grow.
- Plant and grow grass in trays for the children to cut using scissors.
- Using their bodies, children explore how seeds grow from a tiny seed to a shoot and then a large flower.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Work in groups to achieve challenges set- motor skills, number games, sharing, turn-taking.
- Talk about safety and boundaries- staying with grown-ups/ not talking to strangers
- Practise handwashing.
- Discuss festivals such as Easter, encourage children to talk about their experiences.
- Discuss how spring is a time of new beginnings and growth. Look at how different plants and animals change and grow in spring.
- Talk about new life and baby animals.
- Talk about the Easter story.

Mathematics

- Order flowers according to size.
- Recognising one more/one less.
- Counting sets of seeds.
- Count and match spring flower number shapes.
- Provide some plant pots and artificial spring flowers on stalks. Roll a dice and place this number of flowers into the pot.
- Create your own garden ten-frames using sticks to form the frame. Children can collect natural objects to explore counting.
- Plant seeds and describe the sequence of events using picture cards.
- Weighing ingredients for hot cross buns and discussing the texture of the ingredients.
- Counting Easter eggs on an egg hunt.

Medium Term Planning

Spring

Understanding the World

- Games; finding pairs, interactive.
- Stick a photograph of each child's face on to a small pot. With the children, fill a pot with soil and sprinkle with cress seeds. Encourage children to observe what happens to the seeds. When the cress grows, it will resemble the children's hair.
- Make a rain measure and collect the spring rain showers. Explore the vocabulary of capacity through rain.
- Discuss new life and baby birds hatching. Observe birds in the environment and encourage children to make their own birds' nests from grass and twigs.
- Talk about what plants need to grow.
- Look for minibeasts and find their names using a book.

Literacy

- Create a Garden Centre role play area where lots of opportunities for writing. Make labels, shopping lists, order forms and receipts.
- Match letter sounds to spring objects.
- Make and write Easter cards.
- Draw ingredients needed to make hot cross buns.
- Observational drawings of plants/flowers, labelling them.
- Read Easter/Spring stories, predicting the ending or joining in with repeated phrases.

Science

- Growing a bean in a bag.
- Grass Head Experiment.
- Making bird food.
- Growing Wheat.

Expressive Arts & Design

- Role play area- into a Garden Centre. To play imaginatively- using the till/money to buy and pay for things in the shop.
- Growing playdough tasks, using seeds and natural resources.
- Paint flowers and plants.
- Make paper plate flowers.
- Create growing sounds using a variety of musical instruments.
- Sing rhymes related to the topic, clapping to the beat.
 - Use painted bubble wrap to print pink tree blossom or frog spawn and create a lovely spring scene.
- Pretend to sow seeds by sprinkling bird seed into the paint.