

Developmental Play Activity Overview

Composting



Year Group/s: EYFS

EYFS Curriculum Framework Links:

- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Physical Development
- Understanding the World
- Communication and Language
- Expressive Arts and Design

Summary:

In this activity, children will investigate composting as a way of caring for our planet and reducing waste. Using fruit and vegetable peelings from their free morning snack, children will take ownership of collecting, sorting, and adding food waste to a class compost bin. Through hands-on exploration, children will learn that food waste does not need to be thrown away and can instead be turned into something useful for growing plants.

Prior Knowledge required:

- To know what fruit and vegetables are
- To understand that rubbish is usually thrown away
- To have some awareness of plants and soil

Learning objective:

To understand that some waste can be composted.

- I can identify food waste that can be composted
- I can help put food scraps into the compost bin
- I can explain what compost is and why it helps the planet

Prepare before the lesson:

- Provide a clear compost bin or compost bag suitable for EYFS
- Create simple picture cards showing what can and cannot go into compost (or this can be left up to investigation).
- Ensure fruit and vegetable peelings from snack time are available
- Have child-sized tools available by the compost bin

Activity Outline:

1. Children are invited to explore a composting area where a compost bin, food scraps from snack time, and tools are freely available.
2. During or after morning snack, children take responsibility for saving their fruit and vegetable peelings instead of throwing them away.
3. Children investigate the scraps, discussing where the food comes from and what might happen if it is thrown away.
4. Children take turns adding food waste to the compost bin and may stir or cover it, using appropriate tools.
5. Children help decide where the compost bin should be kept and who will look after it. Roles may include:
 - a. Compost monitor
 - b. Food waste collector
 - c. Compost stirrer
6. Children are encouraged to check the compost regularly, noticing changes in smell, texture, or appearance over time.