Cloud gazing

Subject: Geography

Overview

- Observing nature can help children to make sense of the world around them and understand their connection to the environment. This activity will encourage imagination and creativity, whilst also improving vocabulary.

Learning Outcomes

- To learn the different types of clouds and what they suggest about the weather.
- To use descriptive and imaginative language.

Equipment

- A clear sky with clouds
- An open, comfortable space to lie in
- A rug or tarpaulin to lie on (optional)

Activity

1. Choose a spot to lie in where everyone can see the clouds above.
2. Ask the pupils to look at the clouds and spend a few minutes concentrating on what they can see.
3. Ask what the different clouds look like and discuss the different types they might see. For example: fluffy white cumulus clouds, white and feathery cirrus clouds, or dark and high cumulonimbus thunderstorm clouds.
4. Encourage pupils to use their imaginations and think about what they can see within the clouds. For example: a shape, a pattern, a face, an animal, a snowperson.
5. Discuss what the clouds make the pupils think of and let them have fun trying to spot the same hidden objects as someone else.

Further activities

Mathematics	Shape	Pick out shapes in the clouds and ask pupils to name them and their features
Literacy and Language	Fiction writing	Ask pupils to make up stories that link the different things they see in the clouds
	Descriptive language	Write sentences to describe the clouds, or a short poem
Art and Design	Sketch books	Sketch the clouds and the view from lying down on the ground
	Artistic techniques	Recreate and label the cloud types using cotton wool and paint
Health and Wellbeing	Relaxation	Simply enjoy the moving clouds and take the time to relax and reflect

Learning through Landscapes