Increasing Nature

Overview

Nature is buzzing all around us and our outdoor play spaces should celebrate that! Weaving natural elements into every play zone in the space helps to connect children to the world around them.



Activity

Add nature to different areas by:

- Adding plants to borders of your play zones. Tyres around a digging pit make great mini gardens!
- Dotting planters around the space (big or small) and choosing plants to encourage pollinators.
- Cosy wildlife spots like bird feeders and minibeast habitats can be placed around your space.
- Making sure there are plenty of natural play items, large and small, to play with.

Equipment

- Planters: e.g. wooden planters, tyres, wellies – get creative!
- Wildlife feeders and homes that you have made with the children
- Natural play items, such as seeds, leaves, conkers, acorns.

Key Interactions

Model exploring the natural items with the senses. eg.
"*The leaves on this plant feel soft.*"
Model taking care when doing so, helping children to learn how to take care of the natural world.

The Benefits

Active Learning – children will learn about the properties of the items they are playing with or around and will learn how to take care of the natural world.

Progression in Learning

Look at installing a range of natural surfaces in your outdoor space.
Create larger wildlife homes for your areas. You could create a pallet minibeast home or make a wormery with the children.