Speech and Language Scavenging

MY NATURE PLAY

Overview

Nature provides a rich environment to explore speech and language. Learning new vocabulary in context can help children make sense of their world.



Activities

Do a scavenger hunt for natural materials with varying textures. Explore your space with the children. Encourage them to gather items and to begin to describe them. Add useful vocabulary to support this and promote sensory exploration of materials. Seasonally changing spaces offer opportunities to discover new things and develop the vocabulary to describe them. Real-world experiences can support children to apply their learning.

Equipment

- A nature rich environment – trees, shrubs, sand, mud, sticks, stones, weather.
- Washing line to peg items, a sheet to gather items on the floor, and/or baskets to collect items.

Key Questions

Can you find...?
How does it feel?
What does it remind you of?
Can you find something...spiky?

Key words: Fluffy, spiky, crispy, smooth, soft, hard, bumpy, squidgy...

The Benefits

- Literacy – talking, listening, sequencing, developing vocabulary through descriptive words.
- Play – exploring, choosing, making meaning, understanding the world.

Progression in Learning

- Introduce Complexity – Combinations such as green and wet, red and round. Add one word to theirs, "I have a leaf", "Yes, a green leaf".
- Tell stories with your found items and encourage the children to tell their own.