The Dig Pit

Overview

Children become underground explorers as they dig, splash, and discover what lives beneath our feet. This activity supports curiosity, care for nature and lots of messy, joyful play.



Activities

Create a small dig pit (1m x 1m) by removing a layer of turf, or use a tyre or raised bed filled with soil. Children dig, scoop, and splash using sticks and a little water to make squishy mud, with adults joining in the fun.

As confidence grows, introduce trowels and forks with simple safety rules. Encourage children to look closely and discover tiny bugs hiding underground; talking together about what they find.

Equipment

- Dig pit created by removing a layer of turf, or a tyre/raised bed
- Soil
- Sticks
- Watering cans
- Trowels.

Key Questions

What will happen if we add some water?
What will we find if we dig a little deeper?
What's hiding underground?
How the mud feels on my skin?

Learning Outcomes

- Builds curiosity about the natural world and living things.
- Develops strength, coordination and control through digging and tool use.
- Encourages talk, questioning and shared discovery.

Progression in Learning

As confidence grows children will dig more independently and use tools with growing control. They will become curious about what they find; watching insects, asking questions and talking about soil, plants and habitats. Children could extend their play by mixing their own mud potions, planting seeds and discovering how mud helps food and plants grow.