



News Story – International Gardening Day

Babies

In celebration of International Gardening Day, we set up a planting-themed tuff tray featuring soil, seeds, fruits, vegetables, planting pots, and spades. This hands-on activity supported the babies' hand-eye coordination as they practiced scooping soil into pots, which also strengthened their fine motor skills. Throughout the experience, the children were introduced to the names and colours of various fruits and vegetables, and began to confidently repeat them, promoting early language development.



Toddlers

For the Toddlers, we did two fabulous stimulating activities with the children which are in correlation to gardening and healthy eating. First we did an adult led activity where the children were shown a variety of different foods both healthy and unhealthy and the children were then asked to sort them into two groups, healthy or unhealthy foods, but before completing this activity we read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story to the children at circle time as this was a great way to support the toddlers to develop an understanding of both healthy and unhealthy foods.





The toddlers also had vegetable rice for lunch where we identified all the different vegetables the children could see in their rice as well as the colour of the vegetables.

In addition, we then linked this activity to gardening by talking about how some foods such as vegetables are planted as seeds and they grow into vegetables. We followed this by doing a planting activity with the children where they planted their very own sunflowers, tomatoes and coriander seeds and had lots of fun filling the pots up with soil and then watering them.



This activity was a great way to support the children to develop and strengthen their fine motor skills as they were scooping and pouring the soil into the pot, this also led to the children developing an understanding of capacity and their hand-eye coordination skills.



The toddlers were also introduced to new vocabulary such as soil, scooping, pouring, watering etc which also was a great way to support the toddlers language development. This eye catching activity was a great way to introduce the toddlers to soil and has resulted in the outdoors mud kitchen catching the attention of more children.





Pre-School

The preschool children have been learning about what happens in Spring. The children mentioned, it gets warmer, plants start growing, and baby animals are born.

Our topic was gardening, as children showed interest in planting outdoors in the preschool plant pot area.

The children were engaged in spreading the soil using a spade whilst spreading it around. The children also were able to hold the seeds in their hands and talk about what size, shape, and colour the seeds were before they were spread onto the soil.

The children finished off by watering the soil using a water pot.

