

Introduction

In this programme, children from Kilkeel Playgroup visit the local lifeboat station to learn about the work of the lifeboat men. They meet some of the crew and climb on board a lifeboat. Later the children have the opportunity to observe closely some animals that live in the sea.

The Hurley Burley Man reads a story called "The Upside-down Boat" and sings a song about different kinds of boats.

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- Explore and use a range of materials to create pictures and models
- Paint/draw pictures from direct observation of objects, *e.g. star fish*
- Listen to music/songs related to the sea
- Engage in role play related to the lifeboat

Language Development

- Understand and use language associated with boats/sea
- Handle picture and information books
- Listen to stories
- Listen to/learn rhymes and songs

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Understand and use language associated with size, position and direction *e.g., front, back, sideways*
- Count small numbers of objects
- Compare sizes of objects using appropriate language *e.g., thick/thin long/short, heavy/light, large/small*

Personal Social and Emotional Development

- Explore emotions, *e.g. fear during storms at sea*

- Talk about the dangers of the sea, and the importance of lifeboat men working together to keep safe at sea
- Learn about people in the community who help others
- Understand the importance of wearing appropriate clothing

Physical Development and Movement

- Physical skills of climbing/swimming/rowing
- Fine motor skills e.g. *fastening coats, painting, drawing, cutting, sticking, modelling, catching fish with a magnet*

The World Around Us

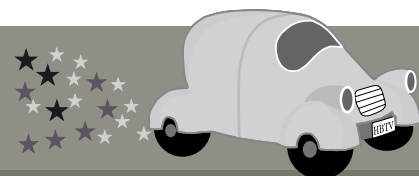
- Observe and respect living things e.g. *the way they move*
- Explore and create an area of interest e.g. *a seascape*
- Learn about the work of lifeboat men
- Learn about different types of boats
- Investigate floating and sinking

Suggested Activities

- Talk about the different boats and ships and reinforce this with picture and information books. Then make a giant wall display using the children's own observational drawings
- Create a seascape using a variety of materials e.g. paint, crayon, clay, scrap materials and everyday objects such as fishing nets
- Make a weather chart for the wall that the children can change daily
- Encourage the children to talk about the clothes they wear for wet weather e.g. why we need boots, raincoats and umbrellas Talk about what lifeboat men wear and why
- Gather together some waterproof and porous materials. Use a watering can to show how some materials repel water and some absorb it. Let the children predict.
- Put a range of materials beside the water tray to allow the children to investigate which materials float and which sink. Make a simple fishing game by painting some card 'fish' shapes and putting a paper clip on the noses of the fish. Make a sea out of coloured paper. Encourage

the children to try to catch the fish with a magnet suspended from a string.

- Look at ropes and chains. Try and get an assortment of sizes and lengths. Let the children learn about thick and thin, heavy and light, long and short etc.
- Talk about how we move. Ask the children to move sideways like a crab or wave their tentacles about like a sea anemone.
- Use a range of stories, songs and rhymes about the wind and weather, the sea, boats, fixing things and the creatures of the sea.
- Talk about others in the community who help us



Introduction

The children in Grove Nursery School in Armagh love to grow plants in their school garden. In the programme we see the children visiting a garden centre to buy a range of plants and planting the plants they bought back at school. They then look at pips in an apple and remove some and plant them in tubs.

The Hurley Burley Man plants tomato seeds and talks about what helps plants to grow. He sings a song about seeds growing and reads a story called "The Enormous Turnip".

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- Create flowers e.g. using paper and paint, crayons, scrap materials
- Listen to and take part in songs e.g. number songs or songs about plants

Language Development

- Listen to and carry out instructions
- Understand and use vocabulary associated with plants and growth
- Listen to stories and rhymes about growth
- Look at books about plants

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Understand and use language associated with size, e.g. enormous, gigantic, tiny
- Count seeds/apple pips
- Use money to pay for goods

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Make choices about which plants to buy
- Help to care for plants
- Work together to plant seeds/plants

- Tidy up after planting

Physical Development and Movement

- Physical skills of stretching like a plant growing, carrying and placing tubs
- Fine motor skills for planting and watering

The World Around Us

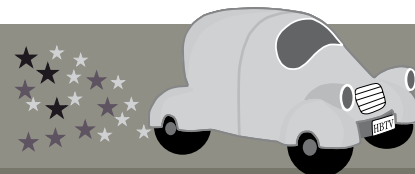
- Understand what plants need in order to grow
- Use their senses to explore different plants
- Observe changes in living things
- Talk about the weather and the seasons

Suggested Activities

- Make an interest table of items that might be needed for gardening e.g. pots, trowels, watering can, small bucket of soil, bulbs, gloves, rake, spade etc. Encourage the children to touch them and talk about them. (The items could also be used to enhance play situations or as items for Kim's and other memory games).
- Talk about of all the things that can be grown in limited space e.g. carrot and beetroot tops in saucers, onions on top of a jam jar filled with water, peas and beans down the sides of jars filled with a wrap of paper and a little water. All these things take only a little organisation and can help children understand concepts of roots, shoots and the need for water, light and warmth for growth.
- Inside an empty egg shell put some damp cotton wool. Sprinkle on cress seeds. Draw a face on the front and wait a few days to watch the man's hair grow!!
- Place a white carnation inside some red coloured water and watch the flower change colour as it absorbs the water over the next few days
- Plant individual sunflower seeds or nasturtiums in yoghurt pots. Then get the parents involved by sending them home to be planted in the garden or patio pot. Encourage the children to bring in photographs of their plants.
- Organise a 'smelling' session by putting some different safe fragrances in

yoghurt pots and taping a tissue lid over the top. See if the children can tell you what the smell reminds them of e.g. baby powder, chocolate, soap powder etc.

- Make turnip soup by chopping up some turnip, a few potatoes and an onion. Boil for 30 minutes in some vegetable stock! Delicious!
- Talk about/investigate dark and light places in the environment e.g. under a bush, inside a cupboard, beside a window, outside in the sunshine. Talk about where light comes from and the dangers of electricity, fires and candles.



Introduction

The Hurley Burley Man goes to tidy out the Hurley Burley Van. He shows all the rubbish in the van and talks about how the rubbish can be recycled. He sings a song about a picnic and tidying up after it, and reads a story called "The Charity Shop".

We see the children from Enniskillen Nursery School on a day out in the forest. They explore among the trees, climb trees, balance on a tree trunk and then have a picnic. After the picnic the children are careful to tidy up and take their rubbish away. They go for a walk through the forest, keeping to the paths and not touching the flowers.

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- Explore natural materials
- Create pictures and models using natural and man-made materials

Language Development

- Explore and talk about natural materials
- Engage in conversations
- Recall events of the "picnic"

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Sort materials
- Understand and use language associated with size e.g. tall, small, tiny, huge
- Talk about the sequence of events e.g. bus, walk, picnic, tidying up, going home

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Take responsibility for caring for the environment
- Understand issues such as litter
- Be aware of the safety of themselves and others

- Develop positive attitudes to healthy eating and hygiene

Physical Development and Movement

- Physical skills of walking, balancing, climbing
- Fine motor skills of e.g. fastening coats, gathering natural materials

The World Around Us

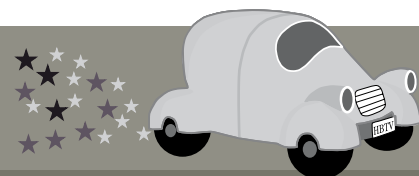
- Observe and respect living things
- Observe changes in living things
- Use their senses to explore
- Become aware of a range of plants and trees
- Sort everyday materials for recycling

Suggested Activities

- Secure three different coloured sacks in the classroom with masking tape against a wall or desk. Provide a pile of 'rubbish' to be sorted into metal, paper or plastic. (The children will love this exercise and it also reinforces the concept of tidying up).
- Provide small bins in the classroom which the children can use to recycle everyday materials e.g. paper, cans and plastic
- Look at and talk about things that keep food safe and fresh e.g. tin foil, cling film, cans, containers
- Use empty household packaging as containers in the sand
- Organise a prop box or display area where the children can see a variety of things that we might take with us on a picnic e.g. a rug, a flask, sandwich box, cups. (These objects could provide opportunities for discussion and might be used by the children to enhance their imaginative play).
- Why not organise a picnic? You could make your own sandwiches and buns, pack everything in a basket and go for a walk outside in the garden.
- Create pictures and models from scrap materials and clean and safe household rubbish

Programme 3 - Enniskillen Outdoors, caring for the environment

- Gather together, or encourage the children to gather, leaves, twigs, cones, flower heads etc. and let the children create a sculpture using these natural materials. (Children can be very creative but usually start with a face) This is a great exercise for outdoors.
- When thinking about outdoor space resources, consider getting a tree trunk for climbing over and sitting upon! It fires the imagination and is relatively inexpensive.



Introduction

In this programme, children from Carebears Community Playgroup in Newtownstewart visit a farm. They ride on a tractor and trailer to see all the animals. They learn about the different features of the animals and have the opportunity to handle and feed baby animals.

The Hurley Burley man sings a song about how animals keep warm and reads a story called "Wee Mouse".

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- Listen to and identify animal sounds
- Listen to and join in with songs about animals/farms
- Explore animal sounds using their voices and a variety of instruments
- Create pictures and models of animals and their homes
- Explore textures e.g. fur, feathers

Language Development

- Talk about animals e.g. their homes, features, young, food they eat, how they move, the sounds they make, their pets
- Listen to stories and rhymes about animals/farms
- Recall of visits to zoo/farm

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Match animals to their homes/young
- Count small numbers of animals
- Compare sizes of animals/shapes of feet

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Be aware of safety issues of being around animals
- Show respect for animals

- Appreciate the special relationship between mother and baby animal

Physical Development and Movement

- Fine motor skills for drawing, painting and making models

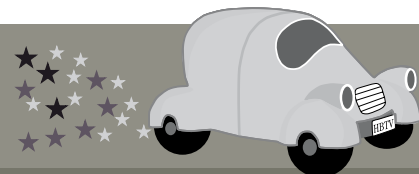
The World Around Us

- Observe animals e.g. their features, how they move, their coats, what they eat, the sounds they make, where they live
- Talk about how to care for animals
- Find out about the young of different animals
- Observe shadows

Suggested Activities

- Make a 'feely box' with wool, feathers, leather, suede, velvet etc. inside. Get the children to think of the different animals that they are reminded of as they explore the different textures.
- Use a similar range of materials to make a collage or wall display
- Make a chart showing the favourite foods of animals and put small farm animals under the display. Encourage the children to match the animals to the food they eat.
- Provide a range of musical instruments (both commercial and home made) and everyday objects so that children can explore sounds and create a sound for each animal.
- Make simple matching, sorting and memory games with pictures of farm animals e.g. linking animals with their homes, their young and what they eat.
- Help the children draw around their feet. Compare lengths, shapes sizes.
- Make an interest table by making prints on paper from different sorts of shoes e.g. slipper, ballet shoe, stiletto or boot. Encourage the children to match the shoe to the silhouette.
- Gather together some information books showing paw prints and animal tracks. Ask the children if the paw prints look like our foot prints.

- Share a range of poems, rhymes, songs and stories about the farm and its animals with the children. Encourage the children to illustrate these.



Introduction

This programme focuses on road safety. Children from St Therese Nursery School learn to cross the road using the Green Cross Code. They learn about the importance of wearing a seatbelt when in a car and wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle. We see the children wearing their helmets and riding their bicycles safely.

The Hurley Burley Man talks about the importance of having the Hurley Burley Van in good order before going out on the road. He reads a story about a puppy called Topper going on his first walk and sings a song about safety on the roads.

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- Create pictures and models using a range of materials e.g. paint, crayons, scrap materials and artefacts
- Listen to sounds in the environment
- Experiment with musical instruments to make traffic sounds
- Take part in role play e.g. acting out crossing the road

Language Development

- Understand and use language associated with road safety e.g. in role play
- Listen to and follow instructions
- Listen to and join in with stories, rhymes and songs
- Look at information and story books

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Explore space eg. when riding bicycles
- Talk about the shapes of vehicles eg. using language such as long, wide, curved sides, tall, small
- Count the number of wheels on different vehicles during play

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Understand the importance of wearing appropriate clothing e.g. helmets, reflective clothing, waterproofs
- Show respect for others e.g. when riding bicycles
- Learn to take turns and share

Physical Development and Movement

- Physical skills of moving, e.g. running, walking, peddling (slowly, quickly)
- Fine motor skills e.g. fastening helmets and coats, painting, modelling drawing, cutting, sticking

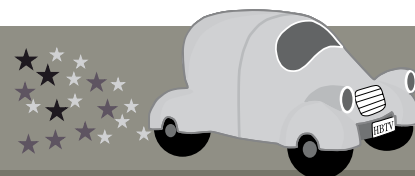
The World Around Us

- Explore how things move e.g. wheels, pedals, gears, brakes
- Talk about safety on the roads e.g. importance of using the Green Cross Code when crossing the road, wearing a seatbelt and helmet, staying with an adult
- Explore safety issues e.g. by playing with simple floor mats and small vehicles

Suggested Activities

- Make a tape of traffic noise to use as background for stories where children can identify sounds. (There are several transport tapes available now for identifying vehicle sounds which can also be used for lotto and memory games).
- Set up a zebra crossing in the classroom. Encourage the children to stop, look and listen when using the crossing e.g. during role play.
- Set up a "road" in a defined area outdoors and encourage the children to use it to ride bicycles/scooters/peddle cars safely
- Invite your local Road Safety Officer to visit your setting to talk to the children
- See if visits can also be arranged with the Fire Service, PSNI and the Ambulance Authority. (Although they are all very busy they all have education officers who might like to come along and reinforce the road safety message).

- Gather together a range of small vehicles e.g. cars, lorries, trucks and a floor mat. Encourage the children to use these to explore safety issues. (These can also be used to illustrate stories, rhymes and songs).
- Encourage the children to make patterns in play dough or clay with car wheels. Compare size, width design etc.
- Provide a range of information and story books about transport. Use these to enhance the theme and provide talking points.
- Talk about the different colours of cars. Ask the children which is their favourite colour of car.
- Make traffic light buns. Decorate sponge buns with icing and bits of green, yellow and red glace cherry.
- Help the children make a wall display of a road or town scene. They can make the vehicles and houses with scrap materials. The finished frieze will provide many opportunities for stories and class discussion about roles, travel and people who help us.



Introduction

Children from St Columbs Nursery School in Portstewart go on a trip to the beach. They collect shells and make sandcastles. Back in school, the children make "pretend" ice-creams and set up an ice-cream shop.

The Hurley Burley Man reads a story where a little girl called Amy investigates with her mother, what can be found in rock pools. He shows how to make a good sandcastle.

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- Make patterns using a range of shells and other natural materials
- Create pictures from direct observation of objects e.g. shells
- Make models using a variety of materials
- Engage in role play e.g. shop play

Language Development

- Listen to and join in with stories, rhymes and songs about the seaside
- Recall visits to the seaside that they have had
- Understand and use language associated with the seaside e.g. limpets, rock pools, sandcastles, waves
- Look at information and story books about the seaside

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Compare sizes and shapes of shells
- Understand and use mathematical language e.g. full, empty, as big as, top, bottom, higher, lots of
- Use money to pay for goods in shop play

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Talk about safety on beaches e.g. keeping away from the waters edge, staying near an adult, taking care on slippery rocks
- Understand the importance of wearing appropriate clothing e.g. sun hats
- Know the importance of wearing seatbelts
- Talking about/taste food that is good for them

Physical Development and Movement

- Physical skills of running and climbing
- Fine motor skills to make sandcastles and create pictures and models

The World Around Us

- Create a representation of a seashore
- Observe and respect living things
- Understand that shells are animal homes
- Use their senses when tasting food
- Explore the properties of wet, damp and dry sand
- Observe materials that freeze/melt

Suggested Activities

- Encourage the children to explore the properties of dry sand and damp sand. Provide water for the children to add to the damp sand to make wet sand. Ask the children which type of sand is best for making castles.
- Provide children with a variety of moulds to use in the sand and shells and feathers to use for decoration. (These can be removed at the end of the session and rinsed ready for the next time).
- Encourage the children to use sand, shells, seaweed, bits of driftwood etc and polystyrene fruit/meat trays to make their own seaside scene
- Put items such as shells, driftwood, and seaweed in the middle of the drawing table so that children can make observational drawings
- Freeze a balloon overnight and let it melt in the water tray. Keep watching it during the course of the day. Children love experiments!
- Make ice lollies with fruit juice and ice cream especially if you have access

to an ice cream maker.

- Introduce money in the shop area. Provide purses and wallets with coins and old loyalty cards and just watch them spend!
- Provided that you have parental permission and can assure food hygiene standards are met and that the food is fresh, why not try a seafood tasting? You might not have many takers but they will enjoy observing the fish and making comparisons.
- Put a variety of different kinds of shells on an interest table. Encourage the children to bring in other types of shells to add to the collection.