



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 water's 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.