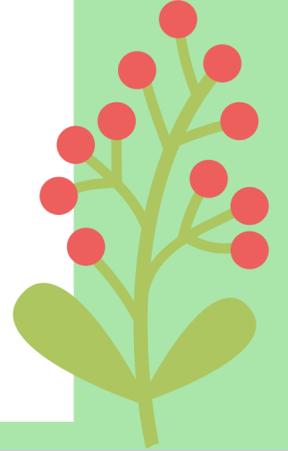




WEEK 3: CONNECT WITH NATURE



OFTEN CHILDREN WILL VISIT GREEN SPACES, BUT WILL NOT CONNECT WITH THEIR NATURAL SURROUNDINGS. RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT THOSE WHO CONNECT WITH NATURE ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT. PARTICULARLY WITH CHILDREN IT IS KEY THAT THIS CONNECTION IS MADE AT AN EARLY STAGE. THIS ACTIVITY WILL HELP TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO THINK MORE DEEPLY ABOUT ANIMALS AND PLANTS. UNDERSTANDING THAT ANYTHING IN YOUR IMAGINATION CAN BE MADE!

CLAY/MUD ANIMALS

YOU WILL NEED:

- **A SMALL SPADE/ GARDEN TROWEL**
- **WATER**
- **TISSUES OR WET WIPES**



- 1) FIND SOME MUD IN AN AREA THAT IS ALREADY WET, AND ROLL THE MUD INTO YOUR HANDS. (NOTE IF IT DOESN'T STICK TOGETHER WELL IT WON'T BE VERY GOOD FOR MAKING ANIMALS)**
- 2) HAVE A THINK ABOUT WHICH ANIMAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE. DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE ANIMAL? COLLECT UP DIFFERENT MATERIALS SUCH AS TWIGS, STONES, AND LEAVES WHICH CAN BE USED FOR THE DIFFERENT FEATURES OF THE ANIMALS**
- 3) ENJOY FEELING THE CLAY, EXPLORING THE DIFFERENT TEXTURES WHILST YOU MOULD THE CLAY/MUD INTO THE SHAPE OF AN ANIMAL (DON'T WORRY IF YOUR CHILD IS UNABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING WHICH LOOKS DIRECTLY LIKE AN ANIMAL. ALLOW THEM TO USE THEIR IMAGINATION AND EXPLORE DIFFERENT WAYS TO MOULDING THE CLAY/MUD)**

USING CLAY/ MUD CAN HELP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS. FOR EXAMPLE SQUEEZING CLAY CAUSES A CHANGE. THIS ACTION HAS POWER AND CREATES THE SENSE OF EMPOWERMENT.

IT ENCOURAGES EXPERIMENTATION AND IMAGINATION. CHILDREN HAVE TO CREATE DIFFERENT SHAPES. ALLOWING THEM TO USE THEIR IMAGINATION.

HELPS TO DEVELOP MOTOR SKILLS AND HAND EYE COORDINATION.

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

CLAY AND MUD CAN BE VERY DIRTY, SO ENSURE YOU WASH YOUR HANDS WITH WATER GIVING THEM A GOOD RUB TOGETHER, AND USE TISSUE TO WIPE THEM DOWN.

ENSURE HANDS ARE PROPERLY WASHED BEFORE EATING. MAKE SURE HANDS ARE KEPT AWAY FROM FACE AND MOUTH AT ALL TIMES!

MANIPULATING THE SHAPE OF AN ANIMAL BY DRAWING OR FASHIONING IN CLAY HELPS US THINK MORE ABOUT THAT ANIMAL, WHAT DOES IT DO, WHAT DOES IT EAT, HOW DOES IT MOVE, HOW MIGHT IT FEEL. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

IT HELPS TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO CONNECT TO THE ANIMALS OR PLANTS THEY ARE THINKING ABOUT MAKING- IT'S ALL ABOUT THINKING AND EXPLORING!

REMEMBER TO:

- CHECK THE WEATHER – BE PREPARED FOR ALL WEATHER, BRING SUITABLE CLOTHING, WATER, SUN CREAM, RAINCOAT ETC**
- WEAR SUITABLE FOOTWEAR**
- CLOSE GATES BEHIND YOU – DON'T LET ANIMALS OUT**
- FOLLOW CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS**
- BE AWARE OF OVERHANGING BRANCHES, STINGING NETTLES AND SPIKEY PLANTS**
- NOTHING GOES IN MOUTH POLICY- BEFORE EATING CHILDREN MUST WASH THEIR HANDS DUE TO TOUCHING LOTS OF DIFFERENT MATERIAL**

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