



Growbag

SEASONAL SEND ACTIVITIES

brate spotter sheet



GROW BAG

SEASONAL SEND ACTIVITIES Flowers

Engagement model activities:

Resources: blossom tree or collected blossom, containers, water, string, bottles/trays, lavender, small organza bags (or circles of old fabric) with string/ribbon), edible flowers, dandelion clocks.

- Sit or lie under a blossom tree when the blossom is falling. If you do a blossom tree on your site is it possible to collect some blossoms elsewhere and bring it in to recreate this experience?
- Collect blossom petals and make into a 'perfume' by sealing and shaking in small containers with water.
- Harvest or bring in some lavender and make lavender bags.
- Make sensory bottles or trays with flowers. Lots of common flowers are actually edible, for example, marigold, nasturtium, cornflower, honeysuckle, magnolia, pansy, rose.
- Blow dandelion clocks.

Pre-Key Stage 1 activities:

Resources: flowers, paint, paper, soil, powdered clay (optional), wildflower seeds, tissue paper, paper plate, sticky back plastic.

- Use flower heads, such as dandelions, as paintbrushes or to make prints.
- Sort a selection of flowers into colours. Enjoy taking apart the flowers and looking at the petals, leaves and stems.
- Make a wildflower seed bomb by mixing a little soil dug from the garden (not compost) with a little powdered clay (not essential but if you have it it does hold the ball together more effectively) and a sprinkle of seeds. Leave to dry.
- Make a blossom collage using collected blossom petals, tissue paper and paint.
- Make a petal sun catcher by cutting out the middle of a paper plate and covering the hole with sticky back plastic, then scatter or place petals and small flower heads over the tacky surface. Attach a string and hang in a window.

Further Exploration:

- Flower ID – Use books, photo charts or digital apps to identify or match flowers you find around your garden.





SEASONAL SEND ACTIVITIES

"Every child needs nature. Not just the ones with parents who appreciate nature. Not only those of a certain economic class or culture or set of abilities. Every child." – Richard Louv.

We want all children regardless of ability to be able to engage with the outdoor environment and experience the wonders of nature at their own pace and level. Accordingly, we have drawn together some ideas for nature engagement in the school garden throughout the seasons suitable for children not able to fully access the national curriculum.

The activities are divided into 3 sections:

- **Engagement Model** for children who are working below the level of national curriculum and not engaged in subject specific learning
- **Pre-Key Stage 1** for children working below the level of national curriculum but engaged in subject specific learning
- **Further Exploration** for children ready to extend their learning in this area.

Health and Safety

Make sure your site is thoroughly risk assessed before beginning any outdoor work, with consideration to access and movement in, out and around the site. A pre-session site safety sweep is always advised to check for any new hazards. You know your children best but consider how to manage risk during activities regarding touching, picking up, and eating natural items and keeping children with low mobility warm. Ensure thorough hand washing after each session.



SEASONAL SEND ACTIVITIES

Seeds & Planting

Engagement model activities:

Resources: selection of fruits, selection of old seeds or dried pulses, sensory trays or bottles, containers, chia seeds.

- Provide a selection of fruits for the children to investigate. Cut them open and have a look. Point out the seeds. Provide opportunities for the children to smell and taste the fruits you have extracted seeds from.
- Make up sensory trays or bottles with old seeds or dried pulses like peas, beans or lentils.
- Drop seeds into different containers outdoors e.g. watering can, plant pots made of clay, plastic or metal, buckets, to experience different sounds.
- Use soaked chia seeds for a taste-safe sensory experience.

Pre-Key Stage 1 activities:

Resources: old seeds or dried pulses, scoops or spoons, trays, small cups/bowls, clay/playdough, soil/compost or a digging area, trowels, garden gloves, plant pots

- Provide a variety of different seeds in a tray (use old seeds or dried pulses like beans, peas or lentils) for scooping and pouring.
- Sort a selection of seeds in a tray by type.
- Press seeds into clay or playdough to create patterns and pictures.
- Set up an area where children can dig freely, exploring using gardening equipment like gloves, plant pots and trowels.

Further Exploration:

- **Cress heads** – A perennial favourite! Grow cress on wet cotton wool in old egg shells or yoghurt pots.
- **Bean in a bag** – Another favourite! Put some damp cotton wool or a kitchen towel in a plastic food bag, put a bean seed on top, seal the bag and tape to a window. Watch the root and shoot form. Make sure you keep it moist.
- **Paper pots** – Roll old newspaper around a cylindrical object, such as a glass or empty tin can. Make sure one end is longer than your object so you can tuck it in at the end to create the bottom of the pot. *(NB There are plenty of quick online video tutorials for this).* Use for starting off your spring planting or for children to take home a planted seed.
- **Growing experiments** - Set up some simple experiments to investigate how seeds grow. For example light/no light or water/no water.



SEASONAL SEND ACTIVITIES

Flowers

Engagement model activities:

Resources: blossom tree or collected blossom, containers, water, sticks, sensory bottles/trays, lavender, small organza bags (or circles of old fabric you can tie with string/ribbon), edible flowers, dandelion clocks.

- Sit or lie under a blossom tree when the blossom is falling. If you don't have a blossom tree on your site is it possible to collect some blossom from elsewhere and bring it in to recreate this experience?
- Collect blossom petals and make into a 'perfume' by sealing and shaking in small containers with water.
- Harvest or bring in some lavender and make lavender bags.
- Make sensory bottles or trays with flowers. Lots of common flowers are actually edible, for example, marigold, nasturtium, cornflower, honeysuckle, magnolia, pansy, rose.
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Resources: flowers, paint, paper, soil, powdered clay (optional), wildflower seeds, tissue paper, paper plate, sticky back plastic.

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- Sort a selection of flowers into colours. Enjoy taking apart the flowers and looking at the petals, leaves and stems.
- Make a wildflower seed bomb by mixing a little soil dug from the garden (not compost) with a little powdered clay (not essential but if you have it it does hold the ball together more effectively) and a sprinkle of seeds. Leave to dry.
- Make a blossom collage using collected blossom petals, tissue paper and paint.
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Further Exploration:

- **Flower ID** – Use books, photo charts or digital apps to identify or match flowers you find around your garden.

- **Dandelion chains** – Still a little fiddly but much easier than daisy chains! Make a slit in the dandelion stalk and thread another through. Repeat until you have a chain you can wear as a crown or a necklace.
- **Threading** – Cut thick cardboard in to strips or shapes. Punch holes in with a sharp pencil and use when out in the garden to thread flowers into. These could be used for collecting, sorting, counting and creating patterns.
- **Cooking with dandelions** – All parts of a dandelion are edible. Try making dandelion and lemon biscuits, dandelion honey or adding dandelion leaves to salad or pizza toppings. Dandelions could also be used in playdough.