



Activity 2

Title: Exploring a local area

Aims To notice and comment on features seen during a short journey around the local area.

Possible setting Early years settings, local park, footpath.

What you need

- Collection of photos e.g. CCW photo collection and/or montage of photos taken in local area.
- Smiley and sad faces photocopied and cut up (see attached Word files).
- Digital or disposable camera (optional).

Preparation/setting up Identify a suitable area/route and note features that may stimulate discussion.

Risk Management Follow the policy of your school/early years setting with regard to risk management.

Examples of typical safety measures for this activity include:

- *Check area prior to use*
- *Appropriate footwear/clothing for all participants*

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What to do

- Share activity aims with everyone.
- Show the children a series of photos e.g. bluebells, empty crisp packet, dog, cows, plastic bag and discuss how the pictures make them feel.
- Ask them to record their feelings by placing a smiley or sad face near each one. Provide the children with opportunities to explain their choices. You might wish to explore how they might feel if they found some of the items in their homes or gardens e.g. litter.
- Ask the children to predict which objects they might see while they are outside and explain that they will be able to use the faces to show how they feel about features in the area.
- During the walk, record the children's opinions with a camera or tally chart and note taking (by adults or children)
- Follow up - discuss how the area made them feel.
- Identify and celebrate positive aspects of the environment and what might be done to help improve the negative ones.

Questions to ask / vocabulary or discussion opportunities

- What do the pictures show? (explain any new words e.g. bluebell)
- How does it make you feel?
- Do you think we will see on our walk?
- Did everyone like/dislike? Why don't some people like/dislike? e.g. feel afraid/ worried, looks messy/scary, is dangerous/noisy/smelly.
- What do you like best about your local area?
- What do you like least?
- Is there anything we can do to change what we don't like (i.e. make the area better)?

Range- extension activities / development / further ideas

- Use a collection of (clean) recyclable objects e.g. plastic bottle, can, apple core to discuss decomposition and recycling. Children could sort materials according to how to dispose of them e.g. composting, recycling, re-use.
- Look at objects made from recycled materials.
- Make/View art from recycled materials.
- Investigate what facilities there are in the local area to recycle materials - invite a recycling officer into school.
- Older children - carry out a litter count (see KS 2 Countryside Code resources), design and make posters to promote caring for the local environment.

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What do the children do?

- Talking
- Choosing
- Expressing an opinion
- Noticing and looking
- Recording
- Describing

Possible skills to be developed

- Sensory skills
- Communicating
- Listening to others ideas
- Asking questions
- Investigating
- Thinking about
- Seeing links between cause and effect
- Making observations and keeping records

Targeted FP outcomes

- PSD FPO 2 develop an awareness of personal safety in particular dangerous hazards
- KUW FPO1 children explore objects and materials within immediate and familiar environments
- KUW FPO3 begin to record observations using symbols/pictures/simple signs or phrases
- LLC FPO3 draw on an increasing vocabulary in their talk



