

Saving water at nursery

This activity will support discussions with children about how we use water and what we can actively do to reduce the amount of water used in the nursery, which will have a positive impact on the environment.

Learning aims

- To develop an understanding of the world through exploring water and the use of water
- To engage in discussion
- To work together
- To gain an understanding of what can be done to save water.



Resources

- Water facts to share with children
- Paper and pen (for adult recording purposes)
- Resources and creative materials for making water saving pictures
- Area or wall space to make a display.

Activity Outline

- Inform children that this week is 'Water Saving Week' and that you would like their help in looking at how water is used at nursery and how you could save water at nursery
- Firstly, share with the children some information about water and why water is so important for us. These are a few simple facts. You can discuss and expand on these or add more according to the age and knowledge of the children:
 - Water is found almost everywhere on earth (which is where we live) and is needed for all life – people, animals and plants all need water
 - Most of our body is made up of water (it is inside of us) and we need fresh water to drink to keep us healthy
 - Water is found in the sea, lakes, oceans, rivers, canals, ponds but we can't drink water directly from these. Water has to go through a special process where it is cleaned so there are no nasty germs and once it is safe to drink it travels through special pipes to our taps.
- Explain to the children that it is important that we save water where we can as there are lots of people in the world and if everyone uses too much water we won't have as much
- Take the children on a walk around the setting both indoors and out and ask them to help you make a list of all of the ways in which you access and use water in the nursery each day. (Remember to access all areas including bathroom and kitchen areas). Record these on some paper as you go
- Once you have completed the list use this to engage in discussion with children about the use of water in the nursery. Do you use a lot of water in the nursery? Are there uses of water that are essential and cannot be avoided? Are there any uses of water that could be reduced or changed? Are there any alternatives to using water? For example, what could be used in the water tray instead of water?
- Keep a record of all of the ideas and use these in the setting to actively reduce water usage
- Encourage the children to create pictures and representations of their ideas of how water could be saved in the nursery. Use these to create a water saving display with all of the ideas. Perhaps you could develop a nursery slogan or a pledge about using less water in the future.

Extending the activity

- Read NDNA's top tips for water saving for additional ideas to reduce water wastage in your setting
- Share water saving information and tips with parents – perhaps this could be added to your display.