

Natural and made objects

Encourage the children to recognise differences between natural and made items around them by looking at the objects on this poster. Create learning opportunities across all six Areas of Learning with these stimulating cross-curricular ideas

Creating an interactive display

- Draw the children's attention to the poster images and explain what is meant by 'natural' and 'made'. Explain how all made items start off as natural materials.
- Create a wall display by dividing a board into two using suitable backing papers in contrasting colours to represent 'natural' and 'made' items. Attach the poster to the centre, and arrange items such as magazines, cards and clothing on the 'made' side and the children's 'natural' pictures, for example, using sand and natural collage materials, on the other side. Create a border from balloons on the 'made' side and leaves on the 'natural' side.
- Set up two tables below the display for made and natural items. Walk around your setting indoors with the children to collect made items, and invite parents to go for a walk outdoors with their children to collect appropriate natural objects.



Activities across the curriculum

Personal, social and emotional development

- Before carrying out this activity check for any food allergies and dietary requirements and do not allow the children to handle raw eggs. Look at the image of the egg on the poster and talk about where eggs come from. Cook eggs in different ways and use them to make dishes such as pancakes to share.
- Look at the biscuit on the poster and encourage the children to describe their favourite biscuits. Look at the natural ingredients needed to make biscuits and explain where they come from. Check for any food allergies and dietary requirements, then make a batch of biscuits for snack time.

Communication, language and literacy

- Divide a sheet of paper into two columns labelled 'made' and 'natural'. Ask the children to take turns to choose something on the poster and draw the object under the correct heading. Support the children as much as possible when writing labels for their drawings, by introducing new vocabulary or asking them to write initial letters.
- Point to the teddy and the torch on the poster. Are they natural or made? Let the children explore a real teddy and a torch by sight, touch and smell, and then verbally compare the two.

Mathematical development

- Look for patterns on the natural objects on the poster. Introduce similar real objects such as fallen branches and leaves for the children to handle and look at closely with magnifying glasses. Invite the children to draw some of the patterns that they have noticed, for example, the rings in the cross-section of a branch and the symmetrical veins in a leaf.
- Use the poster to encourage counting, for example, the number of pieces of blue chalk or the points on a starfish. Encourage the children to look for the wellington boots and acorns, and introduce the word 'pair'.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Look at the made objects on the poster and ask the children to point to something made from wood, chalk, plastic, glass or faux fur fabric. Gather together examples of the different items, pass them around, one by one, and talk about how they were made. Show the children glass items at a distance for safety reasons.
- Put the poster on the floor and gather the children around it. Ask them to name the natural objects and then put leaves on top of the things that they might find in the woods. Use satsumas to do the same on top of items that they could eat.

Physical development

- Look at the natural objects on the poster and ask the children to point to the edible fruits. Discuss the importance of eating fruit as part of a healthy diet. Check for any food allergies and dietary requirements, then chop apple and watermelon into bite-sized pieces to sample.
- Look at the image of the china cup and saucer and explain that these are made from clay, which is baked, painted and glazed. Let the children experiment by transforming a natural piece of clay into a useful object such as a bowl.

Creative development

- Point to the picture of coloured chalk and explain that chalk is a natural material. Look at some pictures of white cliffs. How do the children think that these cliffs become the coloured chalk shown on the poster? Let the children use white and coloured chalk to draw pictures on black sugar paper.
- Gather together examples of natural objects shown on the poster that are suitable for collage such as seeds, cones, flower petals and leaves. Invite the children to stick them to a small branch or log to form a three-dimensional sculpture.

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