

Early Years

Describe and create a woodland

Learning objective:	To be able to talk about a woodland environment and what animals and plants you might find there.
You will need:	Poster “Woodland Life”, art materials
Starter:	Ask children what a woodland is. What is found there. What do we do there. Get children to tell their own stories about their experiences of woodlands.
Development:	<p>On the poster, put blank paper over the animals. Then one-by-one describe the animals one clue at a time and ask children to guess what the animal is. Remove the paper once they have got the right answer, until you have the whole picture.</p> <p>Ask children to look at all the different colours in the picture. Ask them to look at all the different shapes. What are the tallest things, what are the smallest things?</p> <p>Ask them to think about where the different animals live and what they eat.</p> <p>In groups, get them to create different parts of the picture and put these together in a collage. One set make the trees in the background, another set make foxes, another bluebells etc. Get them to think about the texture of what they are making and what might be good for it, smooth material for flowers etc. You could bring in real leaves to recreate the woodland floor.</p>
Plenary:	Get children to look at the finished artwork and discuss which bits they like the most and why. Whether everything is the right size and in the right place. Whether they think a frog or a bunny would like to live in the actual picture and why.
Further ideas:	Ask children to describe the daffodils and the primroses using descriptive language, then do tallies of how many of each are in the picture, make sentences with missing words about where each of the animals live so children can place the bird in the tree, the rabbit in the burrow, the frog in the pond etc and establish habitats for each animal. Create a simple word search with the names of the animals in the picture.