



Mary, Mary— FY

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the environment
- ⊗ To listen to, join in and respond to 'Mary, Mary'
- ⊗ Use appropriate vocabulary and begin to recognise flower names
- ⊗ Use language to compare colour and size of plants
- ⊗ To use a variety of tools safely
- ⊗ To use a variety of materials to create their own flowers and gardens
- ⊗ To order numbers

INTRODUCTION

Share 'Mary, Mary' nursery rhyme

Talk about what Mary grows in her garden

What grows in our garden—look at photos of plants/flowers growing now in the garden

ACTIVITY

In small groups, visit the plots within Hill Close Gardens and look for these plants/flowers

Use language of the parts of the flower, colours, sizes

Look at other features, summerhouses, bird bath, etc.

Break - refreshments and a game outside

GROUP ACTIVITIES - depending on the number of children in the group, choose a selection from;

1. dig and plant plastic flowers in children's garden
2. find flowers and plants in catalogues, cut and stick to make plant catalogue/collage of those seen today
3. make own mini garden in a shoebox lid
4. make flowers from recycled materials
5. plant small plants in pots to take home
6. Mary, Mary number ordering

Rotate so that each group can do each activity.





TO FINISH

Add our own flowers/plants to make our own Mary, Mary rhyme

Possible Follow Up Activities

- ⊗ Observe plants growing
- ⊗ Plant/grow some of the plants and flowers found on visit
- ⊗ Visit some children's gardens near your school to look for similarities/differences
- ⊗ Make group 'Mary, Mary' rhymes to make a Class/Pre School book





Senses Workshop — FY/Y1, KS1

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the environment
- ⊗ To explore the local environment using all the senses
- ⊗ To identify things growing and other things that are in the garden, including sounds
- ⊗ To develop vocabulary, using appropriate vocabulary to communicate ideas to others
- ⊗ To use senses to solve problems
- ⊗ Explore a range of natural materials and use to make their own work

INTRODUCTION

Share, 'It All Makes Sense', Sam Godwin

Talk about the things we can hear, see, touch, taste smell in the room

ACTIVITY

In small groups, go on a senses trail around the garden. (**SAFETY—ENSURE CHILDREN DON'T PICK AND EAT PLANTS**)

This can be developed by including far away and up close

Break - refreshments and a game outside

GROUP ACTIVITIES CAN INCLUDE;

1. SIGHT - cut out/draw pictures of things they saw on the trail, Take this record back outside and add to it - how many things had they remembered?
2. TOUCH - explore variety of natural materials - collage the materials in groups
3. SMELL - smell various things, which smell nicest?, can children identify it?
4. HEAR - identify sounds we heard outside from pictures, can we make the sounds? Go outside again - compare the sounds outside the front of the garden and in the centre plot of the gardens
5. TASTE - taste some of the vegetables/fruit seen

Rotate so that each group can do each activity. Activities from other programmes such as Natural Materials and Seed Workshop may be appropriate to your theme.

FINISH

Show children part of something they saw / something they smelt, can they guess what it is?





Seed Workshop — FY / KS1

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the natural world and local environment
- ⊗ To develop vocabulary, using appropriate vocabulary to communicate ideas to others
- ⊗ To use senses to explore a variety of seeds and consider where they come from
- ⊗ To explore and describe textures, pattern, line and shape
- ⊗ To use seeds to create picture/pattern
- ⊗ To begin to understand that flowering plants produce seeds
- ⊗ To understand that plants grow and identify the parts of a plant

INTRODUCTION

Pass around a bag of beans of seeds. Ask the children to feel what is inside and describe them. When everyone has felt inside, ask what they think is in there? Pour them out so we can see what is inside.

ACTIVITY

Where do they come from? Cut open a variety of fruit and vegetables to see inside, look at pictures of seed heads from flowers and some real seed heads/pods. In the Autumn, go on a 'seed hunt' around Hill Close Gardens. In Spring/Summer, look for young plants growing, in the nursery beds and blossom on the fruit trees. In the late summer, look for developing seed pods and heads.

ACTIVITIES

1. look at a variety of seeds and beans, sort them using a sorting mat; smallest, largest, hardest, softest, darkest, lightest, etc
2. use the seeds and beans to create a pattern in a clay tile or stick design onto card. If the session is between April and October, this can be left to view at the next open weekend so that children can bring their families to look at their work. The children's work will then be returned to school.

BREAK for refreshments and 'the bean game'

ACTIVITY

What do we know about seeds? They are all sorts of size, shape and colour
We know where they come from, what are they for?

Show a series of beans growing in jars and a series of sunflower seeds growing in pots, looking at the various stages of growth.





ACTIVITY: *You can choose the focus of the rest of your visit;*

1.

Plant the growing sunflowers and beans in the children's garden, asking the children what they think will happen to them. We can also send photos by e-mail of the various stages of growth. Children can plant their own sunflower seed in a pot or bean in a jar to take back to school.

or, 2.

If you plan another visit in the Autumn Term, plant a 'flower meadow' in the Children's Garden and collect the seeds during your next visit. Take these back to school to keep for the spring! We can also send photos by e-mail of the various stages of growth.

TO FINISH

Read 'Jack and the Beanstalk' or Jasper's Beanstalk where the children can be the seed growing! or other linked story.

Possible Follow Up Activities

- ⊗ Observe the seed growing, making a record of it's growth and taking measurements.
- ⊗ Observe a bean growing in a jar, making a record of it's growth and taking measurements.
- ⊗ Make a class seed collage.
- ⊗ Plant other seeds to see which grow quickest.
- ⊗ Experiment with growing conditions.





Seasonal Workshops - FY/KS1

There is such a variety of plant and wildlife in the Gardens, the seasonal changes are fascinating to see. Re-visiting the Gardens at different times of the year has many learning opportunities for children. Many of the other Programmes can be adapted to be incorporated in Seasonal Workshops.

SPRING LIFE - SUMMER SCENTS - AUTUMN COLOURS - WINTER WONDERLAND

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the natural world and local environment
- ⊗ To develop vocabulary, using appropriate vocabulary to communicate ideas to others
- ⊗ To explore the four seasons, exploring main characteristics and differences
- ⊗ To use senses to explore the natural environment
- ⊗ To explore plants and animals in the local environment; identify similarities and differences
- ⊗ To understand that plants grow and identify the parts of a plant
- ⊗ Begin to or build on understanding of how plants grow well
- ⊗ To investigate a range of natural materials
- ⊗ To explore and describe colours, textures, pattern, line and shape
- ⊗ To record from first hand observations and communicate findings in a variety of ways

INTRODUCTION

Sort clothes appropriate for the season. If the children have visited previously, look at photos to remind them of the things they saw and found.

ACTIVITY

In small groups, go on a seasonal trail around Hill Close Gardens - children in FY can take a photo of something to find and those in KS1 can take a 'spotters' sheet on the trail

Break - refreshments and a game

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

SPRING LIFE

- ⊗ Make flowers from recycled materials
- ⊗ Plant seeds to take back to school
- ⊗ Plant seeds in the children's garden to grow ready for a later visit
- ⊗ Sketching plants, blossom
- ⊗ Wildlife watch - bird watching, mini bug hunt
- ⊗ Bird nests - scavenger hunt for bits to use to make a nest - older children could make a simple woven nest





SUMMER SCENTS

- ⊗ Collect scents from around the Gardens - describing scents
- ⊗ Sketching flowers
- ⊗ Make a mini garden
- ⊗ Wildlife watch - mini bug hunt
- ⊗ Summer rainbow - collect a palette of colours from the flowers growing - match wools, paper, fabrics to make a class summer rainbow

AUTUMN COLOURS

- ⊗ Collect natural materials from the Gardens
- ⊗ Explore through rubbings and collage
- ⊗ Leaf prints Scavenger hunt for materials for hibernating animals could use to build nests and homes for the winter

WINTER WONDERLAND

- ⊗ Make snowflakes and frost pictures
- ⊗ Victorian Christmas decorations - decorate the tree

ACTIVITY

Give children pictures of different parts of the Gardens/ different Plots in a contrasting season. Retrace the seasonal trail, can the children find where each one is? Discuss differences

FINISH

Order four pictures of one plot in the Gardens. Identify season and the main characteristics.





Fruit and Vegetable Jumble - FY/KS1

If QCA Units are used, this programme links with Design and Technology Unit 1C Eat more fruit and vegetables and possible links with Science 1B Growing plants and Unit 2B Plants and animals in the local environment

The activities here are using fruit, but can easily be substituted by vegetables or adapted to look at both fruit and vegetables. This Programme is most successful in the Summer and Early Autumn Terms.

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the natural world and local environment
- ⊗ To listen, join in and respond appropriately
- ⊗ To identify some fruit/vegetables and explore their properties using senses
- ⊗ To develop vocabulary
- ⊗ To understand that plants provide food and identify how some fruit/vegetables grow
- ⊗ To begin to understand that flowering plants produce seeds
- ⊗ To use a variety of tool safely
- ⊗ To make careful observations and record using sketches or prints
- ⊗ Develop design, selecting appropriate fruit/vegetables, processes and tools

INTRODUCTION

Read 'Handa's Surprise', by Eileen Brown, or 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', by Eric Carle. Identify the fruits in the story. Pass the fruits around the group, describing colour and texture of skin.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Look around Hill Close Gardens to find any fruits growing - take photos of any found. Children will have a sheet with pictures to help them identify various stages of growth of fruits around the Garden.

CLASS ACTIVITY

Identify fruits in the garden. Pass the fruits around the group, describing colour and texture of skin. Ask where did we find the fruits growing, on trees? in the ground? on plants? What is inside the fruits? Cut fruits in half to find out what is inside.

BREAK - refreshments and play fruit salad or vegetable stir fry game

GROUP ACTIVITIES -

1. sketch whole fruits and what they look like inside
2. plant seeds from cut fruit in pots to take back to school, sow fruit and vegetable seeds/plants in our children's garden
3. taste a selection of fruits/vegetables
4. draw and colour fruits identified, cut out and hang on a class 'fruit tree'





TO FINISH

Each child will be given a mini book to take back to school to make a record of their seeds growth.

Possible Follow Up Activities

If you want to come for a day visit, these activities could be included in your programme;

- ⊗ Carry out a survey of favourite fruits and represent information found
- ⊗ Design and make a fruit salad or smoothie.

Other activities;

- ⊗ Plan and make other dishes using the fruits/vegetables
- ⊗ Explore fruit/vegetables from other countries
- ⊗ Plan another visit or visits to observe growth of fruit/vegetables planted and harvest





Maths Workshops ~ FY/KS1/KS2

Maths trails and activities can be planned focusing on shape, pattern, number and measures around the Gardens for all Key Stages. They are linked to the National Curriculum and give children a real life context to practice the skills they have learnt in the classroom. Examples are;

- ⊗ a shape and pattern trail
- ⊗ a number trail
- ⊗ measuring the sizes of beds to work out how many plants are required
- ⊗ using measures to make a scale model of a Victorian Summerhouse

Art Workshops ~ FY/KS1/KS2

Art workshops allow children time to sketch the large variety of trees, plants and flowers and consider size colour, texture and perspective. Activities focusing on a particular elements can be included.

Recycling Workshops ~ FY/KS1/KS2

To find out more about our environmentally friendly Centre and recycling in the Gardens, please contact the Education Officer.

Victorian Plant Hunters ~ KS1/KS2

If QCA Units are used, this programme links with Science, Unit 1B, Growing plants, Unit 2B, Plants and animals in the environment (focusing on plants) and Unit 4B, Habitats
This programme is best done during the Summer months

This Programme is being developed. Please contact the Education Officer to find out more.

