

INFANTS – CARING FOR MY LOCALITY

Teacher Guidelines:

- Pages 130 - 132

Linkage:

- Living Things: Plants & animals
- Materials: Properties and characteristics of materials

Integration:

- Language development: English and Gaeilge
- Geography
- History
- Visual Arts
- Mathematics

INFANTS – CARING FOR MY LOCALITY

Content Objective:

- **OBSERVE, DISCUSS AND APPRECIATE THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT**
*beauty and diversity of plants and animals in a variety of habitats
 attractive elements of physical, natural and human features*

Some suggested activities:

- Refer to activities for the strand unit plants and animals i.e. bird table; school grounds walk; I-spy game etc.
- Children draw a picture or write “ What I like about the beach/river/forest”
- “My favourite place in my school/community” Children draw a picture or use the digital camera to record and discuss
- Visit/field trip to an area undergoing change e.g. a field that is becoming a building site. The stages of change can be recorded using children’s drawings or the digital camera. These can then be used as the basis of an ordering activity later in the class.

Some suggested investigations:

- Which is the favourite place in the school of the entire class? Children discuss options and select. These could then be displayed in a pictogram format.

Some suggested design and make:

- Using magazines and/or brochures design and make a frieze/montage of a place that would/would not be a nice place to live.

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Content Objective:

- **APPRECIATE THAT PEOPLE SHARE THE ENVIRONMENT WITH PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE**

Some suggested activities:

- Matching animal pictures with pictures of suitable habitats asking the children to say why they have made their choices.
- Children take an animal picture and draw an appropriate habitat
- Discussing and listing the positive contributions plants and/or animals make to our lives e.g. wheat used to make bread, cows provide milk etc.

Some suggested investigations:

- Which would be the best materials to use for a suitable home for a pet/mini-beast/animal?

Some suggested design and make:

- A suitable home for a pet/mini-beast/animal

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Content Objective:

- **DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING CARE OF AND IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT**

Some suggested activities:

- Elicit from the children simple things we can do for the environment in school and at home e.g. turning water off when brushing teeth, turning lights off when leaving the classroom etc
- People who help us: discuss the roles of the school cleaner, gardener, dust-bin collectors etc and identify ways in which the children could make their jobs easier
- If the school is involved in the Green Schools scheme, Tidy Towns etc discuss with the children the reasons for the school's involvement.

Some suggested investigations:

- How can we best care for our school/homes?

Some suggested design and make:

- A monster eating rubbish bin

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Content Objective:

- **IDENTIFY, DISCUSS AND IMPLEMENT SIMPLE STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING AND CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

Things I can do:

Caring for clothes, toys and other possessions

Keeping home, garden, classroom and street clean and tidy

Caring for living and non-living things in the locality

Things we can do together:

Keeping classroom, school and play spaces clean, tidy and safe

Disposing of litter appropriately

Collecting paper or cans for recycling

Caring for living and non-living things in the locality

Some suggested activities:

- Develop, with the children's involvement, a rota for tidying the classroom
- Make children aware of the appropriate destination for their own and classroom waste e.g. paper into recycling container, compostables into a compost bin etc.
- Involve the children in some simple projects to enhance the school environment e.g. planting bulbs, sunflowers, trees etc
- Adopt a tree. Assign a familiar tree to a group of children or a class. They can then monitor the tree taking note of its progress and recording (digitally or pictorially) the stages of change it undergoes through out the year.
- Care for a living thing in the classroom. This could include a plant, a goldfish, caterpillars, woodlice etc.

Some suggested investigations:

- How can we best care for our classroom?

Some suggested design and make:

- A recycling system for the classroom
- A bug hotel