

Outdoor Explorers at Home

A Sense of spring!

This week, in their outdoor exploring session, children have been using their senses to learn about the signs of spring. They have been exploring outdoor areas to find examples of new growth on trees and spotting spring flowers and animal life.

Extensions activities:

Spring Flower Identification

Go for a walk to a garden, park or woodland and see how many spring flowers your child can identify. Some common spring flowers include snowdrops, bluebells, tulips, daffodils, forget-me-nots and primroses.

Tiddly Tadpoles

Collect some frogspawn from a nearby pond or stream, in order to show your children how frog eggs hatch into tadpoles. Frogspawn will start appearing from January to March, with tadpoles hatching a few months later. The frogspawn and tadpoles should be kept in pond water away from direct sunlight and frost. Feed tadpoles with small pieces of boiled lettuce or special tadpole food. Always return the tadpoles to their original location as they are more likely to survive in a familiar habitat. Alternatively, you could keep returning to a pond in which you have spotted frogspawn to observe any changes that are occurring.

Lovely Lambs

Spring is the time to see lambs leaping around in the spring sunshine! Visit a local farm or arrange a trip to a nearby farm park to see the lambs and other baby animals.

This Week's Outdoor Explorer Tips

- Remind children that it is important not to step on plant shoots or flowers as this will damage them.
- Remind children not to disturb nesting birds as this could result in possible abandonment of the nest and therefore any eggs or chicks.
- Temperatures can still be very cold in early spring. Wrap up warm and be very careful near frozen ponds or streams.