EYFS Outdoor Learning at Redbrook Hayes

Our Vision

At Redbrook Hayes, outdoor learning is an essential part of our EYFS curriculum. The outdoor environment offers children experiences that cannot always be replicated indoors, providing the freedom, space and opportunity to be active, explore, investigate, collaborate and put their learning into practice on a larger scale.

Our outdoor provision is designed to develop the Characteristics of Effective Learning and the foundations of metacognition. Children are encouraged to make choices, test ideas, solve problems, persevere when things do not work, adapt their approach and reflect on what they have discovered. Through carefully considered opportunities for challenge and appropriate risk-taking, children develop confidence, independence and resilience.

High-quality interactions underpin our outdoor practice. Practitioners observe, model, question, scaffold and extend learning while recognising when to step back and allow children to lead their own exploration. Equally important are the interactions children have with one another. Collaborative play provides meaningful opportunities to negotiate, share ideas, solve problems, communicate and work effectively as part of a team.

The outdoor environment is vocabulary rich. Practitioners deliberately introduce and revisit ambitious vocabulary, including concept words such as *above, below, between, heavier, lighter, balance, distance, speed, force, change* and *compare*. Because these words are experienced through meaningful action and play, children have repeated opportunities to hear, understand and use them within context.

Physical Development

Physical activity is central to our outdoor provision. We recognise that young children need frequent opportunities to move throughout the day and that not all children have equal access to active experiences beyond school.

Our outdoor environment therefore prioritises movement. Children have regular opportunities to run, climb, balance, lift, carry, push, pull, dig, build and manipulate resources on a large scale. These experiences develop strength, coordination, balance, spatial awareness and both gross and fine motor control, while also supporting children's wider health and wellbeing.
Active play provides rich opportunities for children to develop perseverance, assess risk, solve problems, cooperate with others and experience mathematical and scientific concepts first-hand.

Learning With and Through Nature

As a bee-friendly gold award school, we want children to develop an understanding that they are part of the natural world and have a responsibility to care for it. Children are encouraged to notice seasonal change, observe plants and wildlife, grow and care for living things and explore the natural environment with curiosity and respect. Through first-hand experiences, we help children begin to understand the importance of bees and other pollinators and the role they play within our environment.

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Provision		Explorers (2–4 years) Skills and Knowledge	Key Vocabulary	Reception Skills and Knowledge	Key Vocabulary
	Sand and Water	Explore the properties of sand and water through filling, emptying, pouring, digging and making marks. Begin to compare quantities, sizes and capacity. Develop coordination and strength and start to share resources.	full, empty, more, less, big, small, heavy, light, wet, dry, pour, scoop, dig, fill, deep, shallow	Investigate and compare the properties of sand and water, selecting appropriate tools. Apply mathematical understanding through capacity, quantity, length, weight and depth. Plan, solve problems and work collaboratively on more complex projects.	full, empty, half-full, capacity, quantity, heavier, lighter, deeper, shallower, measure, compare, level, equal, estimate, solid, mixture
	Nature Kitchen	Combine, mix, pour and manipulate natural materials through imaginative play. Explore quantity, capacity and texture. Develop communication as children share ideas and negotiate roles.	mix, stir, pour, scoop, full, empty, more, less, big, small, wet, dry, soft, hard, smooth, rough, recipe	Independently select, combine and adapt natural materials. Apply mathematical and scientific thinking as children measure, compare, predict and observe change. Develop complex narratives and collaborate with others.	measure, capacity, quantity, ingredients, mixture, combine, dissolve, change, texture, compare, equal, half, predict, observe
	Large Construction	Lift, carry, move, stack and combine large-scale resources. Explore size, shape, space and position. Begin to construct with a purpose, solve simple problems and cooperate with others.	build, stack, balance, tall, short, long, big, small, heavy, light, on, under, next to, behind, strong, fall	Plan, design and adapt increasingly complex structures. Select resources according to their properties and apply understanding of shape, space, measure, balance and stability. Work collaboratively, identifying problems and adapting approaches.	construct, design, structure, stable, balance, support, join, length, height, width, heavier, lighter, above, below, between, beside, plan, adapt
	Wheeled toys and obstacle course	Develop balance, coordination, strength and spatial awareness as children learn to propel, steer and stop wheeled toys safely. Begin to follow simple routes and instructions.	go, stop, fast, slow, forwards, backwards, turn, around, near, far, push, pedal, balance, behind, in front	Demonstrate increasing control, coordination and awareness when travelling at different speeds and in different directions. Negotiate space safely, follow and create routes and respond to obstacles. Explore speed, distance, direction and force.	speed, direction, distance, route, forwards, backwards, clockwise, turn, steer, accelerate, brake, control, force, obstacle
	Physical Equipment	Develop fundamental movement skills through running, stopping, throwing, catching, kicking, rolling and striking. Develop hand-eye coordination and learn to control the body. Begin to take turns and follow simple rules.	throw, catch, kick, roll, hit, aim, target, fast, slow, high, low, over, under, through, stop, start	Develop increasing accuracy, control and fluency when throwing, catching, kicking and striking. Combine movements, adjust speed and direction and apply skills within simple games. Develop cooperation, teamwork and an understanding of simple rules and strategies.	control, accuracy, target, distance, direction, speed, force, aim, strike, dribble, pass, receive, team, rules, space, strategy
	Garden	Develop curiosity about plants, animals and seasonal change. Learn to handle living things carefully, help to plant and care for plants and notice and talk about changes in the environment.	plant, seed, flower, leaf, root, soil, water, grow, bee, insect, bug, wet, dry, sunshine, change, care	Observe and describe changes in plants, wildlife, weather and the seasons. Understand some conditions plants need to grow and recognise the importance of pollinators. Take responsibility for caring for the garden and develop respect for the natural world.	seed, root, stem, petal, soil, growth, pollination, pollen, nectar, pollinator, habitat, environment, season, change, observe, protect