

Small World Play

Learning

Learning across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage can take place in the small-world play area. It is an area that offers opportunities for children to:

- Work as part of a group, take turns and co-operate.
- Have conversations and discussions, and extend their vocabulary.
- Count and use mathematical language in meaningful situations.
- Become familiar with the properties of materials
- Engage in a wide range of imaginative activities.
- Develop creativity and imaginative play
- Develop their physical skills as they use a range of small-world play resources.

Location

- It should be inside and outside.
- It can happen in the sand tray, in the water tray.
- in a builder's tray or box, in the construction area.
- It adds an extra dimension to the role-play area.
- It can take place on the carpet or on a playmat, on table tops or can make and interactive display on a cupboard top or low shelf.



Resources

- Photographs, posters and information books.
- Animals from different habitats including wild animals, domestic animals and pets, farm animals and sea creatures.
- Dinosaurs.
- Railway track and trains.
- Garage and vehicles.
- Airport with planes and helicopters.
- Harbours and boats.
- Houses with furniture.
- Assorted small people of different genders, ages, ethnic backgrounds and including disabilities.
- Wooden village.
- Castle, palaces or fort.
- Minibeasts.
- Resources for specific small world play eghospital or a vets.
- Space craft and aliens.
- Puppets.
- Plastic trees, hedges, gates and fences.
- Natural objects – leaves, logs, branches, cones, shells, plants, pebbles, compost, gravel, soil.

- Assorted trays – a builder’s tray, a ‘grow bag’ tray, a small potting tray, a sand tray, a water tray.

Adult Role

- Ensure that the resources are well maintained and safe.
- Create a stimulating area that will develop children’s creative and imaginative play.
- Spend time observing play that is child led and offer support to extend the play.
- Encourage children to talk and use their imaginations.
- Ask open-ended questions to encourage discussion.
- Introduce new vocabulary and model language appropriate to the play scenario.