



Take It Outside: Spring

STEM: Making a Waterproof Shelter

Introduction

In the story of 'Saving Spring', the hard, long winter is finally ended when Spring is freed. In this practical activity, children think about April showers and how to build a waterproof shelter for the guinea pigs in the story.

You will need:

- an outdoor space;
- 'Saving Spring' story;
- materials to build a shelter (these could include twigs, hay, paper, cardboard, etc.);
- scissors, glue and sticky tape;
- a watering can and water.

Key Questions

- What is the weather like in spring?
- How can we make something waterproof?



What to do:

1. Before you go outside, read the 'Saving Spring' story.
2. Talk about spring weather. Explain that although it is a time of growth and sunshine, there is often a lot of rain during the spring and that there is a saying about this: 'April showers bring May flowers'.
3. Talk about what properties a shelter for small animals would need to have.
4. Then, it's time to take it outside!
5. In groups of around four, children should plan and then build a shelter for a guinea pig, using any materials they can find. Remind the children that the shelter needs to be waterproof and provide protection from the sun and the wind. It should also provide protection from predators.
6. After the children have built their shelters, it is time to test them. The children should look at all the shelters and discuss how sturdy they are. Then, test whether each one is waterproof by pouring water onto each shelter.



Ways to Support

Children with motor skill difficulties may need support cutting materials.

Ways to Extend

Children could write an evaluation of their shelters.

Curriculum Links

Select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.