

Glenveagh Nature Education Programme

Module Fact Sheet for Teachers:

Garden Discovery Day

Book this module if:

- Your children are any age. This day can be tailored to all classes, including pre-school age.
- Your children have been to Glenveagh before and want to explore a different habitat this time.
- You are working towards your DPSM Certificate.

(These are recommendations only - modules are open to all groups)

Learning Outcomes: what we hope the children in your class will gain from the module:

- A hands on, child led exploration of The Education Centre garden and the nature that dwells within.
- An opportunity to use the senses of smell, touch, hearing and sight.
- Encouragement to start developing relationship with nature, the outdoors and living things.
- Knowledge of how plants grow and reproduce.
- Understanding of the role of soil, its composition and its manufacture.
- Experience of the garden as a peaceful place; the role of gardens for recreation.
- Ability to talk about biodiversity in the garden.
- An understanding of how wild areas in the garden are best for nature.

Methods of teaching and activities: what children will experience:

- Exploration of the school garden area, polytunnel and raised beds.
- Perfume making - discovery of garden plants through the senses.
- Exploring soil, its function and its makeup by taking temperatures and feeling types.
- Discussion on how plants survive, coexist and reproduce by looking at examples.
- Identifying and exploring the role of animals and insects in the garden.
- Garden based art and reflective closure activities.

Suggested preparation activities to do in school:

- Discuss the role of gardens in your children's lives.
- Discuss the five senses; when and how are they used in the outdoors?
- What is biodiversity?
- Who lives in a garden and why?
- How do plants survive and reproduce - parts of a flower.
Research different types of garden and point out that all gardens are special.

Suggested follow up activities to do after your visit:

- Start a vegetable or wildflower garden.
- Identify an area of the school ground that can be turned into a special place by the students - leaving a wild or overgrown area to encourage butterflies and bumblebees.
- Through arts and crafts ask children to design their own gardens.
- Explore the role of insects in pollination and bugs in regeneration.

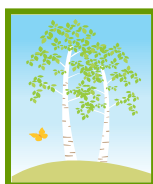
Useful links for further information:

<http://www.botanicgardens.ie/>

<http://www.wildflowersofireland.net/>

<http://www.npws.ie/>

<http://www.kew.org/learn/index.htm>



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