

Glenveagh Nature Education Programme

MODULE FACT SHEET FOR TEACHERS

Garden Discovery Day

WHO IS THIS MODULE IDEAL FOR?

- All class groups are welcome. The day can be tailored to all classes, including pre-school age.
- The students 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:

- A hands-on child led exploration of the Education Centre garden and the nature that dwells within it. (Castle Garden walk-through will be weather dependent)
- Use senses of smell, touch, hearing and sight.
- Children will be encouraged to develop a relationship with nature, the outdoors and living things.
- Learn how plants grow and reproduce.
- How soil works, what it's made of and how it's made.
- Experience the garden as a peaceful place; the role of gardens for recreation.
- Explore the garden's biodiversity and understand how wild areas in a garden are best for nature.



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HOW THE EDUCATION TEAM WILL DELIVER THIS PROGRAMME AND WHAT STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE:

- Students will be taken on a guided walk through the Castle Gardens and the Education Centre Garden to explore what lives there.
- Perfume making - discover garden plants through the sense.
- Explore soil, its function and its composition by taking temperatures and feeling types.
- Discuss how plants survive, coexists and reproduce
- Identify and explore the role of insects and other animals in the garden.
- Garden based art and reflective closure activities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO BEFORE YOUR VISIT TO GLENVEAGH?

- Talk to your students about the garden at your school and how it plays a role in their life.
- Discuss the five sense; 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.
- Ask your students to bring in one plant or flower that grows in their garden and discuss it.



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WONDERING WHAT 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. Leave a wild or overgrown area to encourage butterflies and bumblebees.
- Through arts & crafts ask children to design their own gardens.
- Explore the role of insects in pollination and bugs in generation.

USEFUL LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <http://botanicgardens.ie/>
- <https://themicrogardener.com/gardens-for-kids-design-ideas-themes/>
- <https://kidsgardening.org/>
- <https://www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources/gardening-with-children>
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/>
- https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Gardens_actions-to-help-pollinators-July-2016.pdf
- <https://pollinators.ie/gardens/>

