Children grow their bond with plants by creating a schoolground nature corner.

Nature and Me 3



Keywords

dramatisation • exploration • planting • outdoors

1. Prepare Your Nature Space
By March, the classroom should have a nature corner filled with healthy plants that the children help look after. This activity then builds on that connection by taking it outdoors. Talk with the children about learning in nature and encourage them to share their ideas.

2. What to Prepare (in the schoolyard):

- Soil and compost;
- One small empty pot per child;
- Fennel seeds (available from BirdLife Malta – contact dinjawahda@birdlifemalta.org);
- Bags of small objects (e.g. beads, marbles);
- Child-friendly trowels (may be available from BirdLife Malta – contact dinjawahda@birdlifemalta.org);

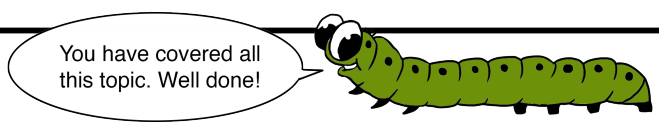
Tip: you can fine more information about "*Collecting fennel seeds*" on BirdLife Malta Youtube page (Downloadable Materials).

3. Outdoor Storytime
Take the children outside with cushions or seats. Talk about the sounds and sights around you. Choose a quiet spot together and read “Poppy’s World Grows Bigger” (Downloadable Materials). Make it interactive by dramatizing it, with movement and sensory elements.

4. Sensory Exploration
Lead them to the prepared materials. Ask them to find what might grow when watered. Let them touch, smell, and explore. Don’t give answers yet, let curiosity lead.

5. Time to Plant
Give each child a pot, trowel, and fennel seeds. If someone wants to try planting a bead or object, let them experiment. Back in class, decorate the pots and place them close to the window. Water gently, explain the difference between “damp” and “wet.”

Tip: you can find more information about growing seeds in the "*Growing seeds*" file (Downloadable Materials).



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6. Watch Them Grow
Seeds should sprout in a couple of weeks (especially in spring). Observe changes together. Compare growth, talk about what helped them grow, and keep caring for the plants.

7. Keep Going Outdoors
Fennel is easy to grow, smells nice, and attracts bees and butterflies. Once the seedlings are stronger, move them outside and start an outdoor classroom area with your potted plants. You can also add other potted plants, see "*Maltese flowering plants list*" in the Downloadable Materials. Over holidays, kids can take their plants home to look after.

Send photos of

- ☐ Children dramatizing story
- ☐ children sowing fennel seeds
- ☐ Personalised pots with seeds
- ☐ Outdoor nature corner

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Compost container & peat-free compost;
- Small pots (1 per child);
- Child-friendly trowels (may be available from BirdLife Malta – contact dinjawahda@birdlifemalta.org);
- Fennel seeds (Available from BirdLife Malta – contact dinjawahda@birdlifemalta.org);
- Bag of small objects (e.g. beads, marbles);
- Markers, paper, card, scissors, glue (to decorate the pot);
- Art and craft supplies of your choice;
- Small watering can or jug.

