

Solar Dome Plan

Context: Studies provide evidence that children can share positivity and compassion with others when they experience it themselves. Research also shows that children can feel compassion for the natural world when they feel a sense of belonging to it. Children need to learn to feel and show kindness to themselves, each other and to animals. If children are cruel to animals, this is often a reflection of poor relationships with adults and peers. In order to support the relationship triangle of self, others and nature, this space has been created.

Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children access the solar dome to enhance wellbeing • Children experience time for reflection and calm • Children share co-regulation with adults and peers • Children learn about the plants and animals living within the dome. • Children show respect to themselves, others and everything that lives within the dome. 	
Implementation	<p>Adults support children in the solar dome one to one or in small groups. Children are given time to sit calmly, and encouraged to experience the environment through their sight, sound, touch and smell. Children will use the magnifiers within the dome to observe features of the natural world, including insects and their habitats, life cycles and flowers. If children are in a dysregulated emotional state on entry to the dome, the adult will allow children to feel the movement of the water in the centre, be encouraged to listen to the wind chimes and observe the reflections from crystals and mirrors, as well as experiencing love and care from the adult present.</p>	
Development Matters	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Understanding the World
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community • Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important. • Remember rules without needing an adult to remind them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. • Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. • Plant seeds and care for growing plants.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. • Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.
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Metacognition focus:



<p>Our shared responsibilities</p>
<p>Treat the plants and animals with respect Use quiet voices Walk carefully Use all our senses Listen to others Help the plants and flowers to grow, watering and protecting everything in the solar dome Take care of the habitats of the animals who live here We NEVER hurt animals</p>

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