



## Outdoors



Froebel valued the learning which takes place in the outdoors. Outside is not just a place for doing, it is also a place for thinking and feeling. All three are interconnected. Froebel believed it was essential for children to have a direct experience everyday with the natural world outdoors, appreciating its wonders and understanding the interrelationship between all living things. The nursery garden and the open area around Linlithgow offer lots of potential for learning in all areas.

### What we do in Nursery

We offer the opportunity to learn in the outdoors every day at nursery. We try to mirror the areas and experiences we offer inside the nursery with the outdoors, where practical.

Children are allowed the freedom to explore their own ideas and express their thoughts and reasoning as they experience adventurous play. They are given the opportunity to participate in risky and challenging play situations within the safety of the nursery.

In nursery we plant different bulbs and crops at different times of the year to show the different growing seasons these have.



*“The child who has cared for another living thing... is more easily led to care for his own life. The care of plants will also satisfy his desire to watch living creatures, for he will see birds and butterflies and beetles coming nearby”*

*(Froebel, in Lilley 1967:128)*

### Top Tip

When out and about in the local environment, children can learn *in* nature rather than just *about* nature. *How many birds can you see in the sky? What direction is the water flowing? What colours are the leaves? Can you find anything which matches the colour of your coat?*

### Home ideas

Try planting cress seeds where your child can tend and care for them as they grow. This is a quick introduction to caring for living things and can progress into planting bulbs and fruit/vegetables which take a longer nurturing process to develop to their end product.