

EARLY YEARS SCIENCE PROVISION MAP

Play, Observe & Ask

Outdoors

Learn: to notice and describe signs of summer

You need: paper, pencils, cameras, seasons scrap books, weather chart/symbols, paint colour charts, magnifying glasses

Outside, encourage children to draw & talk about what they see (could revisit same site during different seasons and record in a seasons scrapbook). Ask the children to do a daily weather check (could keep a record in the classroom). Use paint colour charts to see how many different colours they can match (could repeat each season and compare your results).

Play, observe & ask:

- What can you see today?
- Has anything changed since last time we visited this place?
- What is the weather like today? Is it always like this?
- What colours can you find today? Are the colours you can see the same/different to last time? Why?
- What animals/bugs can you see/find?

Learn: how strawberries grow; to identify similarities and differences

You need: a strawberry plant or visit a strawberry PYO farm, magnifying glasses, containers to collect fruit

Play, observe & ask:

- Can you see any flowers on the plant?
- What is the fruit like before/when it is ready to eat (ripe)?
- How are strawberries different? (look at size and colour)
- Can you order three strawberries from smallest to largest?
- Are smaller strawberries juicier? Taste some and decide.
- What happens when you squash a strawberry?
- Where are the seeds on a strawberry?

Learn: that fruit changes over time

You need: apples or other fruits

Leave them in a quiet outdoor place (away from children and animals).

Play, observe & ask:

- Where shall we leave our fruit?
- What do you think will happen to the way the fruit looks/feels/smells?
- How shall we record what happens to the fruit?

Construction

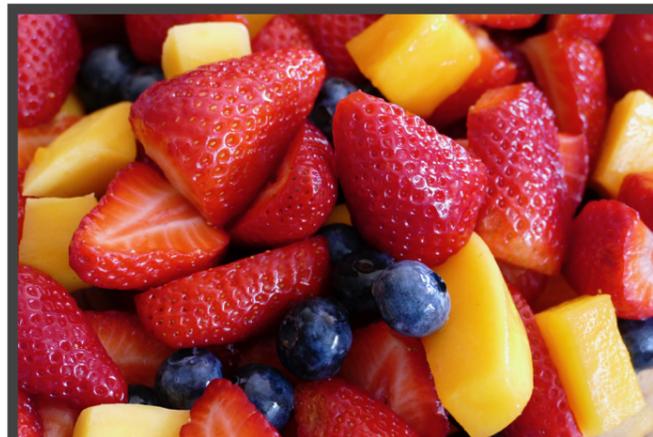
Learn: to compare the suitability of materials for a particular purpose

You need: construction toys (e.g. Lego*), cardboard boxes, tubes, sheets of card, wooden blocks, plastic fruit, toy money
Encourage children to build a fruit stall.

Play, observe & ask:

- How big do you need to make your stall?
- Where will the fruit seller/customers stand?
- What materials will you use?
- Why have you chosen this material?
- How will you stop your fruit from rolling away?

SUMMER / FRUITS



Role Play

Learn: to name and describe different fruit; to weigh and compare the weight of fruit

You need: shopping till, play money, baskets, paper bags (different sizes), real or pretend fruit, bucket scales, plastic cubes, card and pens for making signs

Play, observe & ask:

- What sort of fruit are you selling?
- Which is your favourite fruit? Why?
- How can we find out how heavy your fruit is?
- Is this fruit lighter or heavier than this fruit? How do you know?

Sensory Play

Learn: that we can use our senses (smell, touch, taste, sight) to identify fruit

You need: fruit - cut into small pieces, blind folds, tissues

Play, observe & ask

- Can you use just your nose to work out which fruit this is?
- What does it smell like?
- Can you use just your hands to work out which fruit this is?
- What does it feel like?
- Can you work out which fruit this is by its taste?
- What does it taste like?
- Can you sort the fruit into groups? How will you do this? Which senses are you using?

Water Play

Learn: how to test whether something is floating or sinking

You need: water tray, a variety of fruit, knife (adult to cut up fruit)

Play, observe & ask:

- Which fruit floats in the water? Which fruits sink?
- Can you change what happens to the fruit in the water?
- What happens if we cut up the fruit?
- Do you think a coconut/watermelon would float on the water? Why do you think this?

Key Science Vocabulary

fruits - apple, orange, banana, grape, coconut, melon, strawberry, etc.
properties of materials - heavy, light, float, sink, sweet, sour, salty, smooth, rough, hard, soft, etc.

senses - smell, touch, feel, texture, taste, sight

measuring - bucket scales, balance, heavy, heavier, light, lighter
summer, season

weather - warm, cold, hot, sunny, cloudy, windy, rain, snow, hail

Further Science

Simple pictogram – Which is your favourite fruit?

Measuring - Can you order the fruit from smallest to largest, or heaviest to lightest?

What is inside the fruit? Cut the fruit in half, look at what is inside the fruit, make prints with the fruits.