

# Sunshine and Sunflowers

## Nursery (Summer)



### Malleable/Fine Motor

#### Sunflower dough

Provide yellow play dough, sunflower seeds, rolling pins and circle-shaped cutters. Display images of sunflowers to inspire the children's sunflower dough creations.

#### Ice cream dough

Make ice cream dough by mixing cornflour and hair conditioner in a ratio of 2:1. Add food colouring and essence to give the dough scent and colour. Provide ice cream scoops, small tubs and sprinkles for the children to use in their play.

#### Muddy mark making

Make brown gloop by mixing cornflour, water and brown ready-mixed paint together. Put the gloop into a Tuff Tub and mix in a small amount of soil. Provide sticks for mark making fun.



### Construction and small world

#### Outdoor worlds

Provide a variety of small world characters and different trays or Tuff Tubs for the children to create outdoor spaces for their characters to visit. You could include a tray with sand, pebbles and shells for a beach-themed small world, a tray filled with water as an outdoor pool and one with turf or artificial grass, log slices and branches for a woodland world.



### Sand and water

#### Paddling pools

Fill water trays, paddling pools, a Tuff Tub and other containers with water. Provide bottles, containers, spoons, scoops, syringes, pipettes, funnels and water pistols for splashy fun.

#### Garden soup

Collect flowers, leaves and herbs to add to the water tray. Provide mixing bowls, wooden spoons, tongs and spatulas for mixing and swirling. Add herbal tea bags to the water to change the colour and scent.



### Role play/Communication

#### Sunny day dress up

Provide a sunny day dressing up station with sun hats, T-shirts, shorts, sundresses, sunglasses and sandals for the children to explore. Display a full-length mirror for the children to see themselves in their sunny day outfits.

#### Picnics

Display picnic role play resources for the children to explore in the outside area. Include baskets, toy food, plates, picnic blankets, backpacks, toy babies, pushchairs and toys for outdoor games.

#### Outdoor café

Set up an outdoor café with play food, takeaway cups and barbeque resources. Provide a till, toy money, purses, wallets and bags for the children to visit the outdoor café to buy drinks and food.



### Investigation

#### Places to visit

Create a browsing box, containing leaflets from the local area, such as the leisure centre, park or local attractions.

#### Natural resources

Set up a Tuff Tub with various textured natural objects for the children to explore. Objects could include pine cones, small log slices, bark, thistles, smooth pebbles, shells, a variety of leaves and moss.

#### Summer fruits

Display slices of various summer fruits, including strawberries, watermelon, orange and peach in zip-lock bags for the children to investigate by touch or observation. Put slices of the same fruits in sealed plastic pots. Punch holes in the top of the pots and ask children to smell through the holes and identify the fruits.



### Mathematics

#### Counting and sorting

Display five hoops numbered 1–5. Provide a variety of natural objects in a tray, such as pebbles, pine cones and shells. Challenge the children to count out objects into the hoops.



### Creative

#### Sunflower art

Display a bunch of sunflowers and images of sunflowers. Provide ready-mixed paint, brushes, tissue paper, textured paper, glue and scissors for the children to create sunflower pictures using the resources.

#### Pebble art

Provide the children with large pebbles, small brushes, a range of ready-mixed paints mixed with PVA glue and felt tip pens. Add the decorated pebbles to the garden area.

#### Sun art

Provide a range of beads, seeds, petals and lentils in shades of red, yellow and orange. Offer blue paper or card and invite the children to make transient images of the sun.



### Outdoor

#### Outdoor music

Set up an outside music station for the children to explore. You could hang wind chimes and bells for the children to tap with sticks and add buckets and pots for drums.

#### Outdoor counting

Display an outdoor counting collection containing summer-themed loose parts. Provide numerals and small buckets for the children to make counting collections.

#### Shady dens

Provide shady den-making equipment, such as fabric, large pegs, crates and wooden blocks.

#### Summer mud kitchen

Set up a summery mud kitchen. Offer mixing bowls, frying pans, barbeque utensils, spoons and plates for the children to create a range of dishes.



### Reading/Writing

#### Garden reading den

Create a garden themed reading den using artificial turf, decorative garden screens and artificial plants and flowers. Provide a range of garden themed stories and non-fiction books for the children to share.

