

Outdoor Program Snapshot

Date: 23-Feb-26

Educators Present: Sarah, James, Priya

Focus Area: Collaborative nature play and problem solving

Activity	Outcomes
Building stick shelters	Strengthen gross motor skills, develop spatial awareness, engage in problem-solving
Water play with funnels and buckets	Explore cause and effect, practice fine motor control, investigate patterns and changes
Storytelling circle under the tree	Express emotions and ideas, engage in symbolic play, listen actively and respond
Bug hunt in garden beds	Develop empathy and care for living things, use descriptive language to share observation
Obstacle course with logs and ropes	Strengthen gross motor skills, build peer relationships, practice mindfulness outdoors
Leaf art collage using natural materials	Practice fine motor control, express creativity, reflect on feelings and experiences

Learning Intentions

- Explore cause and effect through nature play
- Investigate patterns, textures, and changes in environment
- Engage in problem-solving and experimentation

- Build peer relationships through collaborative play
- Express emotions and ideas through movement and storytelling
- Develop empathy and care for living things

- Use descriptive language to share observations
- Engage in storytelling or symbolic play
- Listen actively and respond to others

- Strengthen gross motor skills through climbing, balancing, running
- Practice fine motor control with natural materials
- Develop spatial awareness and coordination
- Make choices and take responsibility for play
- Reflect on feelings and experiences
- Practice mindfulness and self-regulation outdoors

Documentation and Reflection

Child/Group	Notable Moments/Quotes	Emerging Interests	Outcome Links
Group of 3 (ages 5–6)	"Let's make a roof so the rain can't get in!"	Shelter building, teamwork	Problem-solving, spatial awareness
Ella (age 4)	Water dripping through funnel: "It's raining".	Water play, experimenting with flow	Cause and effect, descriptive language
Liam (age 6)	Shared a story about a dragon	Storytelling, imagination	Express emotions, symbolic play
Group of 4	Carefully observed ladybugs	Caring for insects	Empathy, care for living things
Ava (age 5)	Balanced across log, "I'm strong".	Physical confidence	Gross motor skills, self-regulation
Noah (age 4)	Arranged leaves "This is for mum".	Creative expression, symbolic play	Fine motor skills, reflection on feelings

Reflection

What worked well?

Children engaged deeply in collaborative play and storytelling.
Natural materials encouraged creativity and problem-solving.
Leaf collage allowed children to express emotions symbolically.

What needs adjusting next time?

Provide more shade options during hot weather.
Add quieter spaces for children who prefer calm reflection.

Follow Up Planning

Interests to extend:

Introduce magnifying glasses for bug exploration.

Family input:

One family shared interest in gardening activities—could link to bug hunt.