



Sustainable Woodland KS1

Caring for Our Woodland Friends

Objective:

Children will explore the idea of a sustainable woodland by learning how to care for the plants and animals that live in the forest. They will create a small woodland diorama using natural materials, focusing on habitats and the importance of protecting nature.

Activity Title:

"Woodland Guardians: Taking Care of the Forest"

Age Group: KS1

Duration: 1-1.5 hours

Materials Needed:

- Natural materials collected safely from the woodland (e.g., twigs, leaves, moss, acorns, pinecones)
 - Cardboard trays or boxes as diorama bases
 - Non-toxic glue, tape, and string
 - Small pictures or toy animals (e.g., birds, squirrels, bugs)
 - Woodland role-play cards (e.g., "Tree Protector," "Nest Builder")
 - Storybook about woodland animals
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Activity Plan:

1. Introduction: Woodland Adventure (15 minutes)

- Begin with a story or short discussion about woodland animals and plants. Read *"The Gruffalo"* or talk about animals like squirrels, birds, or foxes.
 - Explain that today, the children will become *Woodland Guardians* to help care for the forest and its creatures.
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2. Exploration Walk (20 minutes)

- Take children on a short walk through the forest area.
 - Encourage them to observe the forest and talk about what they see:
 - Where do animals live? (e.g., nests, burrows)
 - What do trees and plants need to stay healthy?
 - Let children gather a small selection of natural materials like fallen leaves or twigs (ensure they understand not to harm plants or animals).
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3. Create a Woodland Diorama (30 minutes)

- Provide each child with a cardboard tray or box.
- Guide them to use the collected natural materials to create a small woodland scene, adding:



- Homes for animals (e.g., a twig nest or leaf pile for a hedgehog)
 - Trees and plants to make the forest safe and beautiful
 - Children can add pictures or small toys of woodland animals to their dioramas.
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4. Sharing and Reflection (10 minutes)

- Let each child show their woodland diorama to the group.
 - Ask them to explain how they've helped make a safe, happy home for the animals and plants.
 - Reinforce the message: "Woodlands are special homes for animals and plants, and we need to look after them."
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Outcomes:

- Children learn about woodland habitats and why it's important to care for the forest.
 - They develop creativity and fine motor skills while building their dioramas.
 - They feel empowered to be caretakers of the natural world.
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Extension Ideas:

- Plant a small tree or wildflower seeds as a group to help the woodland grow.
- Role-play as animals and guardians, acting out how they care for the forest.
- Sing a woodland-themed song or make a group pledge to protect nature.

