

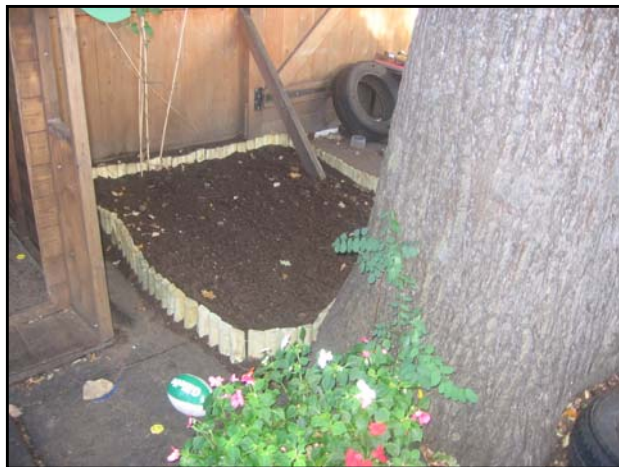
Making the Most of Our Outdoor Area

Cybertots Nursery - Acton

DIGGING PATCH

- *Dinosaurs / Animals
- *Vehicles
- *Wheel barrows
- *Planks of wood
- *Treasure
(gold rocks / sequins)
- *Plastic tubes
- * Plant pots
- * Tyres
- * Cooking equipment
- * Shovels / rakes
- * Microwave (for mud pies)

Digging patch



Incorporate Maths by having numbered pegs for equipment



Dinosaur Land



If you don't have a digging area – what about some old tyres?



SANDPIT

- As for digging patch
- Moulds
- Science experiments – Volcanoes
- Rocks of different shapes and sizes
- Wooden logs
- Put hose in for wet sand and allow children to take off shoes

A tea party in the sandpit!



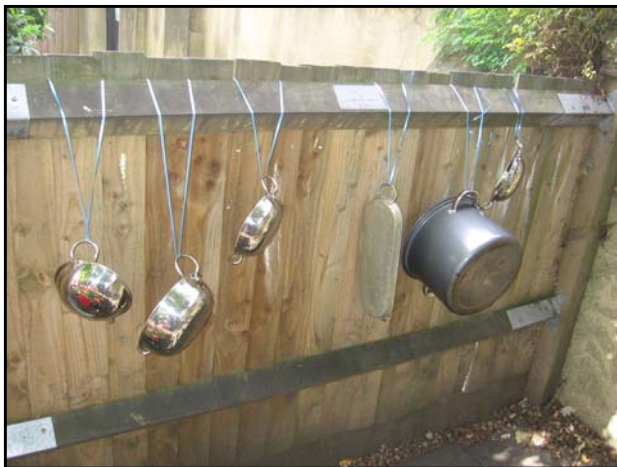
Add pipes and tubes to the sandpit



CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Woodwork Bench – Hammers / nails / sandpaper / add collage materials/ paints
- Chalk drawing on floor
- Fence Murals
- Weaving trees
- Pots and pans for music making
- Large water bottles with 'noisy things!'

Making Music!



Woodwork bench



Display of children's work



Weaving tree – use collage or natural materials



Other examples of weaving using natural resources

Seen in Reggio Emilia Exhibition



ROLE PLAY

- *Dress ups – bags for collecting things
- *Prop boxes ie: Builders (hats/ tape measures/ clip boards / tool boxes)
- Water painting – brushes/ buckets / rollers add colouring to water.
- Acting out stories in Cubby House ie: Goldilocks and 3 Bears/ Bear Hunt

Builders / Painters prop box



Water painting



Maths again!



SMALL WORLDS

Builder's Tray

- Sets of dinosaurs / animals in wet sand
 - Mermaid water world with rocks and shells
 - Fairy land with dolls house furniture and flowers
 - Ice land
- (See book)

Bulldozers and trucks in sawdust



Farm animals in straw



BIG WORLDS

Use existing static equipment and some imagination!

- Climbing frames can become space ships with a few props ie: silver foil / tubes etc. Or a castle or a Pirate ship!
- The cubby house with new props and signs can be transformed into a hospital / police station/ vet clinic/ Real estate agents
- A miniature High street can be set up using tables or big boxes with a hairdressers, supermarket, cake shop, petrol station etc.. (See separate photos)

Our Cubby house has been sold! Children were acting out moving house



We're going on a Bear hunt! Our climbing frame has been transformed into a cave using large sheets of material



Knowledge and Understanding

Gardening:

- *Involve children from the start – where should the garden go? What do plants need to grow? (soil, food, water, sun)
- *Make a compost bin
- *Plant herbs to use in cooking / for taste and smell experiences
- * Make mini green houses with plastic bottles

Green house



Use tyres if you have limited space for gardening



Self help drawers – Magnifying glasses/ plastic bugs/ bug containers/tubes/ plant pots/prompt cards/ pictures



MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Drawers for children to help themselves to
- - measuring tapes
- - string
- - scales
- - trays for sorting natural materials
- -incorporate into all other areas ie: storage of equipment/ car park for bikes/ role play

Self help drawers



Sorting – trays and baskets



Sorting natural objects



How long is a piece of string!?



Learning concepts of over/ under/ through using string



Numbered car park



Different sized padlocks / keys



ICT

- *Place clocks outside
- *Old Microwave / cash register / mixers
- *make use of digital camera – take pictures of 'patterns in nature'
- *keyboards – use in role play ie: control panel of aeroplane / space ship
- * Telephones / calculators

Microwave



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Obstacle course using tyres
- Dancing – bring the tape recorder outside and set up a stage for children!
- Crates and planks of wood for balancing

Obstacle course



Resources

- Make use of local talent! Local schools or colleges may have some talented artists who can paint murals on otherwise drab walls/fences
- Local plant nurseries may contribute some plants or equipment
- Local baker may have large buckets to spare (the kind to keep dough in)

Resources cont'd

- * Enthusiastic, imaginative staff!
- * Ask the parents! Some may be trades people and have some useful material you can use, or could help build or repair equipment.
- Have a section in your newsletter '**items to collect**' and ask for donations
- Materials Bank and craft centre – Portsmouth
- See Helen's books / News articles

REMEMBER THAT OUTDOOR SPACES NEED AS MUCH CAREFUL PLANNING AS THE INDOOR AREA. EVEN WITH LIMITED RESOURCES THEY CAN BE SPACES WHERE BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS WANT TO SPEND TIME, HAVE FUN AND LEARN TOGETHER. WITH LITTLE EXPENSE, OUTDOOR PLAY CAN BE VALUABLE, IMAGINATIVE AND ABSORBING.

Our new covered area



The beginnings of our fairy garden



Interested in visiting?

To make an appointment please contact
Helen Riley @ Cybertots Acton

1 Avenue Crescent
Acton
W3 8ES
Tel 020 8752 0200