

2.Nursery school and 1. primary School

Activity

The NATURE Backpack

As the expert Heike Freire points out in her book and blog 'Educar en verde' (Green education), "In our current environment children spend 80% of their time indoors. Most children are sedentary, techno-dependent, live in isolation, "adultalised", overprotected, sick (aggressiveness, concentration difficulties (TDH), addicted to technology, psychomotor problems) and have a nature deficit (biophobia, ecological illiteracy)".

These statements may seem excessive but they are backed by scientific studies. Similarly, teachers also note with concern the promotion of the use of technology at the expense of outdoor activity in school life. It is more common to try to bring nature to the classroom and simulate it (nature corner, terrarium...) than to go out to the park or the nearest field.

Observing, learning, collecting, comparing, asking questions, posing hypotheses... are goals of the curriculum, so it is obvious that we must open the doors to learning, educating students for the real world.

How many hours do our students spend in enclosed spaces? Is everything learned in the classroom and online? What do children today really need?

Good educational practice could be based on introducing a weekly excursion to the closest natural environment to the school, in the same way as foreign language and psychomotor sessions or workshops are held.

objectives

Curricular Decree for Nursery Education in the Basque Autonomous Community

Field of experience, Knowledge of the environment, Block 2: Getting closer to nature (page 38)

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

- Scientific culture
- Learning to learn
- Mathematics
- Linguistic communication
- Autonomy and personal initiative



DEVELOPMENT of the activity

To do this, we can first start by planning and organising the excursion. These basic references offered will resolve any misgivings we may have: :

- School trips. Curricular material for 3-8 years Basque Government 1994 (page 133)
- IHITZA Magazine. Suggested activities: Biodibertsitatea, Paisaia eta Ingurunea Haur Hezkuntza eta Lehen Hezkuntza 1. zikloa Lehen Hezkuntza 2. eta 3. zikloa

Then it the turn of the "Nature Backpack". It is the only material needed to carry out all activities outside the classroom and it will also help efforts to bring nature into the classroom.

Every child should have a small backpack containing:

Every child should have a small backpack containing:

- Small paper and plastic bags, which can be used to collect seeds, mushrooms, pine cones, pieces of wood, twigs, stones, earth...
- Tape measure, ribbon, string and rubber band. We can measure, tie...
- Small spiral notebook with hardcover, pencil, paints, rubber and chalk. We will use them to paint, point out, note, write, remember things.
- Spoon, chopsticks, recycled small tray and magnifying glass.
- Sheets of newspaper. To preserve leaves, plants, flowers.
- Glass, bottle, clear plastic pot, strainer, large lids and funnel. Very useful for picking up small animals, water...

At <http://www.elsafareig.org/safareigesp> you will find an extensive list of materials to experiment and create.

To carry out this work we will have to give the necessary space, time and silence to see, hear, smell, touch and feel... in nature.



1. Heike Freire EDUCAR EN VERDE blog
 · Educar en verde. GRAÓ
 · CUADERNOS DE PEDAGOGÍA magazine (articles available by the author)
2. Carme Cols, Pitu Fernández <http://www.elsafareig.org/safareigesp>
 El agua, El aire, La luz, La tierra.
3. Crecer en familia. Graó. nº27 Escuelas en el bosque
<http://bit.ly/1mXOSha>

