




Learning Scientific Skills Outside the Classroom

Scientific Skills

Identifying and Classifying Specific skill – comparing materials		Concluding	
Country of Origin	Suggested Age Range		Suggested Theme
 Croatia	4 – 5		Materials
Location outside the classroom		Benefits of using this location	
School Playground		There is a wide range of materials outside. There is a large space and a flat surface to construct their houses on	
Learning Objectives – Scientific Skills		Learning Objectives - Knowledge	
To compare the properties of brick, straw and wood To say what they have found out using simple scientific language		To know that materials have different properties To name some simple properties of brick, straw and wood	
Key Vocabulary			
Scientific skills vocabulary – compare, comparison, conclude, communicate, tell, find out Knowledge vocabulary – brick, straw, wood, properties, strong, weak, bendy, hard, soft			
Resources / Equipment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment to explore materials and build houses – a selection of bricks, wood and straw • Book – The Three Little Pigs – prior lesson to provide familiarity with the story 			
Teaching Activities			
<p>Activity – Show children the three materials which were used by the pigs in the story: bricks, sticks and straws. Allow them time to play with and explore the materials.</p> <p>Discuss – Ask questions relating to the properties of the materials which encourage the children to compare the three different materials e.g., Which material do you think is the strongest? Which material is the smoothest? Which material is the hardest? Which materials can you bend?</p> <p>Compare and conclude – Children answer the questions above using a full sentence which includes simple scientific language e.g. The is the material.</p> <p>Explain – There are lots of different materials outside. Ask the children to explore the materials and see if they can find some examples of the materials the three little pigs used to build their houses.</p> <p>Activity – Children find some examples of bricks, straw and wood from the materials available in the outside area. An adult should ask children questions about the materials they are looking at to see if they can name some of the properties of the material and to ensure they can identify the bricks, straw and wood.</p> <p>Explain – They are going to use the three different materials to build houses.</p> <p>Activity – Children work together to build a house out of straw, a house out of bricks and a house out of wood like the pigs in the ‘Three Little Pigs’ did.</p> <p>Drama – Children act out the part of the wolf by try to blow their houses down.</p>			





Discuss – Which house could you blow down? Which house was the strongest? Which material do they think is the best to build a house? Why?

Conclude – Children complete the following sentence using simple scientific language: I would build my house out of because it is the

Discuss – Which house couldn't be blown down in 'Three Little Pigs'? Why? Link this to the properties of brick and why it is commonly used for building.

Discuss – Which materials are used to build our school? Why have these materials been used?



Examples of children's work and teacher comments from country of origin



The prior learning involving the story 'Three Little Pigs' increased the children's motivation and curiosity towards the materials. In addition, it worked well to combine the Science learning with the drama play activities. The next steps following this lesson would be to investigate the waterproof properties of the three materials.