

Active Worlds Farmyard Mat



Product Code

AW2

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Active World Farmyard Mat

Introduction

Active World mats are an ideal tool to help practitioners deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage, as they embrace elements of all four EYFS themes. Using the mats encourages children's individual confidence and capabilities as they engage in using the mats in different ways. The mats encourage children to share, take turns, to work collaboratively, to engage with key adults initially, but then to move off independently to develop their own learning. The range of mats, play a key role in extending children's development and learning. The mats can be used to cover all areas of learning and development, and show clearly how they are all equally important and inter-related.

The mats can be used with all ages of children, from birth upwards, depending on the resources and adult intervention used with them.

These notes are written mainly for children in Foundation Stage settings, but the principles are easily adaptable for younger children.

Aims & Objectives

- Children learn best when they are actively involved, enjoying what they are doing, through physical and mental challenges. Active Worlds enable children to experience learning through a multi-sensory approach which can engage and involve children for sustained periods. They provide learning opportunities for a wide range of curriculum areas, where children can freely explore materials within the confines of the tuff spot.
- There will be elements of consolidation, exploration, investigation, and fun in every activity.
- Children can have independence and control over their learning which keeps their interest and develops their creativity. They can also become absorbed in finding out about the world through their explorations, investigations and questions through using a wide range of resources with the mats.

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- All the activities can be free play, child initiated, where the children explore independently, or adult directed, where children are given specific tasks to undertake.

Links with Learning and Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

- Links can be made with every area of Learning and Development within the Early Years Foundation Stage. We have merely highlighted those links with the area Knowledge and Understanding of the World. Others are included generally in the next section.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World:

- Can investigate objects and materials by using all their senses as appropriate.
 - E.g. Using peat, sawdust or artificial grass to explore textures and properties.
- Can find out about, and identify some features of living things, objects and events they observe.
 - E.g. Can experience a themed play area and use the appropriate vocabulary – e.g, geographical terms (farmyard, field, fence, pond etc); sorting animals into family groups with appropriate names;
- Can look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.
 - E.g. Vocabulary related to seasons, growth, life cycles;
 - Explore making marks with tractors – ploughing the fields, planting in straight rows;
- Can ask questions about why things happen and how things work.
 - Why do they need gates and fences on some fields?
 - What is the scarecrow's job?
 - Why does the farmer plough the field?
 - Where will the crops go when they are harvested?
 - What do the animals eat?
 - What happens to the animals?
- Can build and construct with a wide range of objects, selecting appropriate resources and adapting their work where necessary.
 - E.g. Building walls, bridges, fences, using commercial building sets as well as 'junk' materials.
 - Ask the children to suggest their own resources.
 - Design and build a scarecrow or bird scarer machine.
- Can select tools and techniques they need to shape, assemble and join the materials they are using.
 - E.g. Make pretend crops for the fields; bind hay together; design and make a farm building;
- Can find out about past and present events in their own lives and in those of their families and other people they know.
 - E.g. Discover where the food we eat comes from (crisps/potatoes); look at comparisons between old and new methods of farming(horse and plough/combine harvester); role play at being a farm worker; investigate a day in the life of a farmer;? What have they got painted on their walls or playground surface?

Ideas for use and links with other areas for Learning and Development:

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy:



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Opportunities for weighing (filling bags of corn); sorting (animals into fields); counting (numbers of animals, counting eggs into boxes); measuring (size of field); comparing (sizes of animals); using mathematical vocabulary (3 bags full); shape and space (finding shapes in the environment); describe position (where things are in relation to each other, behind, in front, on top of); estimation (how many cabbages in the field?); prediction (what will happen if there's no rain?);

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Is interested, excited and motivated to learn through this hands on experiential approach. Is encouraged to be confident to try new activities, initiate ideas and speak in a familiar group. Can maintain attention and concentration as they get involved in using the mat. Can work as part of a group taking turns, sharing, and collaborating.

Creative Development: Exploring colour, texture, shape form and space. Use their imagination to create different role play stories. Can re-create traditional rhymes and stories e.g. Baa Baa Black Sheep; Little Boy Blue; Little Bo Peep; The Enormous Turnip; Chicken Licken; Stone Soup; Billy Goats Gruff; Gingerbread Boy;

Communication, Language and Literacy: Uses language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences. Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events. Interacts with others, negotiating plans and activities and taking turns in conversations. Extend their vocabulary through contextual experiences. Attempts writing for various purposes – e.g. feeding times for animals; record keeping (which cows have been milked); giving the milk tanker directions as to how to get to the farm; re-telling traditional tales; writing stories about life on a farm. Use modern stories as a stimulus for writing (Postman Pat in Greendale); Initial sound hunt e.g. find something with the 's' phoneme; create narratives; listen and follow instructions; name and label;

Physical Development: Uses a range of small and large equipment; handles tools, objects construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control;

Suggestions

Resources: (Here are some ideas of what could be used – this is just the beginning!)

Washable bricks/blocks

Farm animals – male, female and young

Different clothing for roles on farm – white coat and hair nets in dairy; wellies;

Mini clip boards; writing implements

Tractors; combine harvesters; ploughs; muck spreaders; horse box; Land Rover; trailers; milk tankers;

Sand, (different colours), gravel, stones, rocks, pebbles; straw;

People (male, female, range of ethnic backgrounds)

Container for water; containers of varying sizes

Play dough

Play eggs

Improvisation - Make your own resources!

Rice/bulgar wheat for gravel; dried peas and beans for pebbles

Straw made from shredded paper

Pieces of carpet tiles for field surfaces

Shoe boxes/cereal boxes/tissue etc – buildings

Pulses for chicken/duck food

Wood shavings; peat (use dried tea leaves) for the fields



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Scrunched up tissue for cabbages
Dolly pegs for making scarecrows
Margarine tubs for the pond

Care instructions

Use damp cloth to wipe surface.

We would recommend that you roll rather than fold your mat after use, with the picture facing outwards. Any wrinkles can also be removed by wafting a warm hairdryer over the mat.

To avoid creases store in a warm environment.



Active Worlds Mats:

- Transport Mat EY00257
- Minibeasts Mat AW12
- Seaside Mat AW13
- Lunar Mat AW9
- Builder's Yard Mat AW3
- Jungle Mat AW5
- Fairy Tale Mat AW6
- Arctic Mat AW7
- Town Scene Mat AW10
- Dinosaur Mat AW8
- Nursery Rhymes Mat AW11
- Below the Sea Mat AW4
- Playground Mat AW1

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www.tts-shopping.com/activeworlds

