

20 Ways of Small World Play



KSEY CONSULTANCY
AN INTERNATIONAL HUB FOR EARLY YEARS
EDUCATION

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Introduction

I have always been a huge fan of the wonderfulness of small world play. The type of set ups we create that are mini versions of the world around us. Sometimes these are linked to a story, other times a place we might have experienced.

I understand that budgets are tight but for me there are only ever 3 things I encourage money to be spent on;

1. Quality Staffing
2. Block Play
3. Small World Resources

Both block play and small world figures are open ended and allow all areas of early learning to be supported, developed and challenged.

Our free e-guide has been created with the help and inspiration from some of my amazing colleagues working in the Early Years Sector. Illustrating how small world play can be set up to support many different interests both inside and out. With all of the provision in this guide I want you to reflect on where it's appropriate for your children and not just replicate it in your setting.



Audit

Small world figure resourcing.

Think of the age of your children. Are your children still young and need wooden figures that are more robust? Or are they in reception/ KS1 and can take care with more detailed and delicate figures?

ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE

Pets
British wildlife
Jungle wildlife
Desert wildlife
Minibeast
Reptiles
Sea creatures
Farm animals
Birds

TRANSPORT

Planes
Trains
Cars
Motorbikes
Boats
Diggers
Trucks

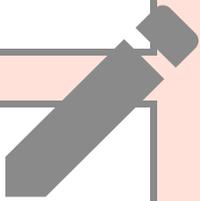
FANTASY

Dragons
Knights
Wizard
Fairies
Unicorns
Aliens
Princess, prince, king, queen
Dinosaurs

PLATFORMS

Tuff tray
Bowls
Table Top
Basket
Crate
Tray
Nesting Houses
Playmats

What do I need to resource now?



Invitations

Organisation

When working with toddlers and young children I begin by setting up small world play that is relevant to an experience they've had. For example the farm, home or pets.

With my older children I have always had part of my provision set up just for small world play. Giving children a platform to work off and storage to help them find and select what they need. I also immerse my provision with small world opportunities. For instance linking a book to a small world set up in the my reading area.



@Tishy Lishy

Space

Think about if your small world space can be in a little quiet nook or in an exciting case. Sometimes I just leave small world figures for children to find!



Invitations

Be Inventive

Use hats, crates, cable reels, palets, bowls, pots, baskets and cat trees as a platform.

Consider the richness of the experience and try and add sensory opportunities as well. We recently created a pond small world tray and used green and blue water beads, rocks and foliage.



@mudpiesanddaffodils



Enhance Further

- Natural foliage
- LED Candles
- Fabric
- Loose Parts
- Lighting
- Books
- Mirrors
- Hessian
- Fabric
- Place mats
- Bark
- Cake boards

Outside

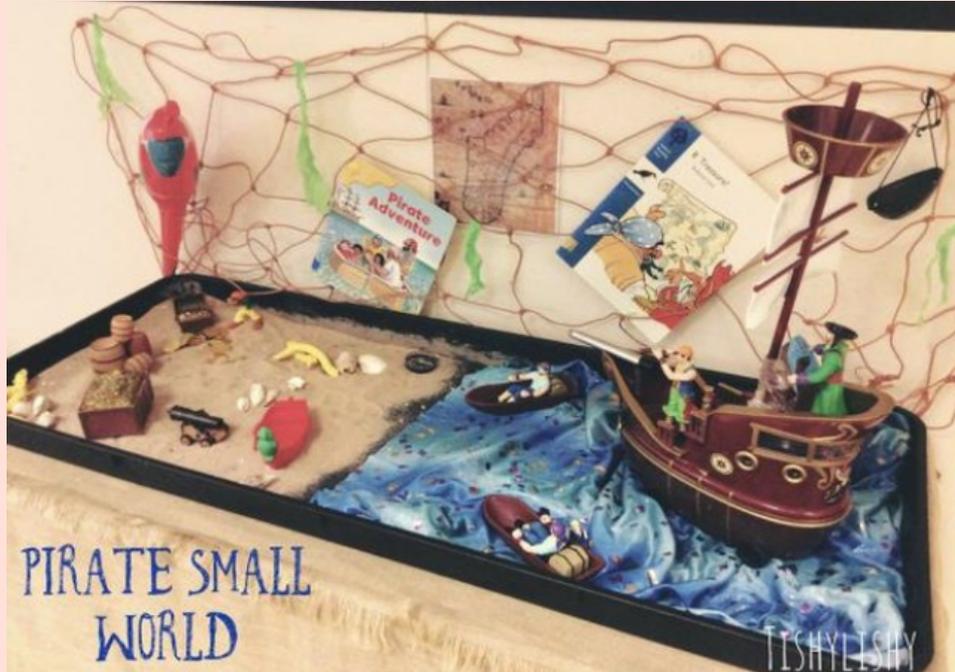
With everything when it comes to provision outside you want to be offering something different than what's inside. Building on the richness of the natural environment.

In my outdoor provision we would have a shed set up with labelled baskets of different types of small world. These could then be transported to any area.

- Large Jungle Animals
- Large Dinosaurs
- Natural Foliage (herbs, grasses, trailing plants and ferns)
- Cars and trucks
- Emergency Services
- Diggers
- Trains



Pirates



@Tishylishy

Dinosaurs



@Tishy Lishy



@Stuart (Mr Early Years)

Bees



@teachinglittlecoconut

s

Bears



@mudpiesanddaffodils

Woodland



Farm



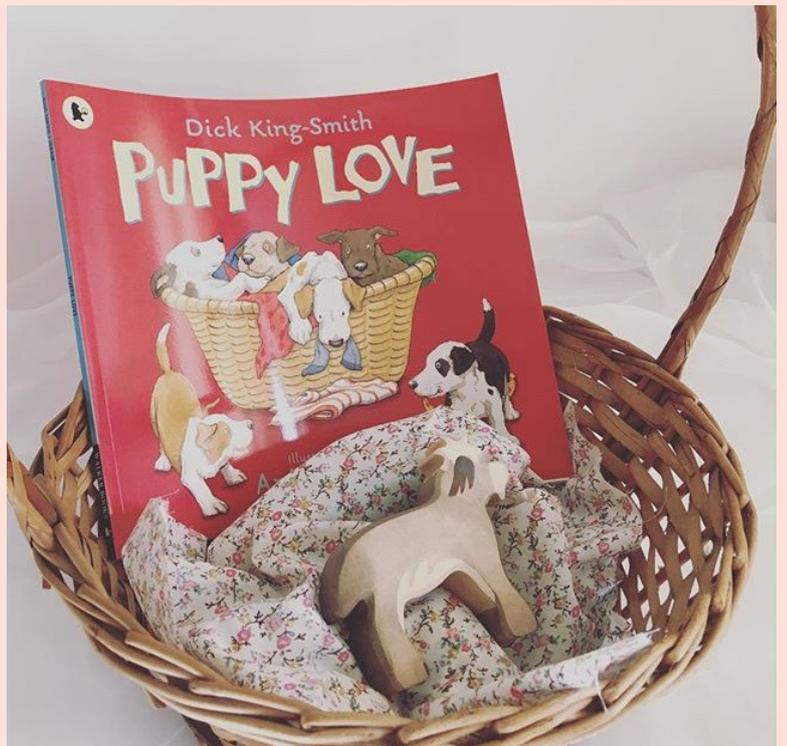
Wild Animals



@rachelmoffatt1

3

Pets



Home



@Seahorseclass1

Fairy Garden



@Tishy Lishy

Snow



@mudpiesanddaffodils



Cold Climates



Life Cycles



@SeahorseclassFS

1

Minibeats



@rachelmoffatt1

3

Local Area



Transport



Superhero



@Tishy Lishy

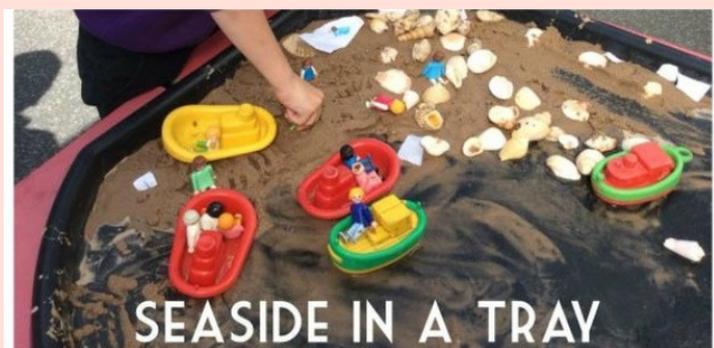
Fantasy



Summer Time



@Rachelmoffatt13



SEASIDE IN A TRAY



@TishyLishy

@Tishy Lishy

Thank you for downloading and we hope this guide inspires your practice. We would love to see what small world provision you create. Tag us with #hyggeintheearlyyears



This free guide has been created for you with the kindness and inspiration from my lovely colleagues;

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