

Giant footprints and fairy footprints

Create a sense of wonder and encourage language and mathematical development with this magical activity.

Learning aims

- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Literacy
- Mathematical development
- Expressive arts and design.



Resources

- Measuring tools e.g. ruler, tape measure, string, cubes
- Camera
- Different sized/shaped footprints (laminated so they can be easily cleaned and protected from the weather). Add decoration and colour to make them inviting e.g. a dust of sparkle on the fairy footprints.

Activity outline

- Place the footprints outside on paths through your garden area
- Place the measuring tools in a tool box ready for children to choose from
- Introduce the activity by telling the children there have been visitors in the garden overnight and you know this because they have left behind their footprints
- Tell the children that they need to work out who they think may have been visiting by acting as detectives and looking at the clues
- Tell the children to go into the garden to find the footprints and think about who they might belong to
 - Support the discussion by using size language (especially with the younger children to cement or reinforce their learning)
- Ask the children if they can work out how many visitors to the garden they have had
 - Which of the footprints look the same?
 - How can we test this to make sure we are right?
- Encourage the children to sort the footprints into order
- Encourage the children to measure the footprints in different ways, e.g. rulers, tape measures, cubes, sticks, string



- Support the children to draw around their own feet
 - How many of the small footprints fit into the giant ones?
 - How many of their footprints fit into the giants'?
 - How many fairy ones fit into yours?
- Following the activity ensure children have access to the measuring tools so they can follow their interest by measuring and comparing objects in the outdoor environment, e.g. sticks, leaves, flowers.



Extending the activity

- For younger children or those who are still emerging into this area of development, you can focus on the language relating to size e.g. bigger, smaller, large, tiny
 - Count the footsteps and compare and sort
- For children excelling in this area, extend this learning further by supporting them to measure the footprints in a variety of ways that suit their level of development
 - Talk about size and order, and count and add the footprints together.

Support children's interests

If the topic of giants and fairies does not interest the children, you could try superheroes and dinosaurs or knights.