

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Spring Clean

Lots of cultures take part in cleaning at various times of the year, this might be before special events, holiday and celebrations or at the beginning of the spring season – known as a spring clean.

Taking part in spring cleaning activities with children helps them to take responsibility for their environment, helping to take off the resources and planning and organising the spaces.

Learning aims

- Talk about own experiences
- Make links between home and nursery experiences
- Develop vocabulary
- Support physical skills.



Resources

- Buckets and warm soapy water
- Sponges, cloths, mops, sweeping brushes, etc.
- Objects in the environment to clean.

Activity outline

1. Talk to children about cleaning – why do we clean things? (to remove dirt, to prevent bugs or germs, to keep us healthy and avoid illnesses)
2. Talk about the different ways to clean things (washing dishes, sweeping/vacuuming, mopping floors, washing machine, etc.)
3. Invite children to share their home life experiences of cleaning routines and their own role in helping to clean, e.g. putting toys away
4. Create a spring cleaning plan together, outlining all the resources and areas that need to be cleaned (you can prepare some photo images of your spring cleaning tasks) and talk about the best way to clean each area or resource and the equipment you might need to use. Include vocabulary such as wiping, polishing, scrubbing, sweeping, etc.
5. Ask children which areas or resources they would like to help clean and encourage all children to take part in your spring cleaning plan. Pin your photos of the spring cleaning areas to a wall (at child height) and add volunteers' names underneath each area

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6. Set up your cleaning stations, e.g. large tubs of warm soapy water for the dolls and a bag to collect the dolls clothes to take to the washing machine or a hosepipe and soft brushes to clean the outdoor wheeled toys.

Extension ideas

- Once the areas have been cleaned talk to children about how the space is organised. Do children have any ideas of how things could be stored to make them accessible? Use children's ideas to plan the spaces and how resources are offered.

Special considerations

Complete risk assessments when using cleaning products and ensure children are supervised during cleaning activities.