

## Outdoor Learning Experience (3 years)

<b>Learning experience:</b> Digging and Hiding	<b>Shared by:</b> Shaireen Selamat
<b>Environment:</b> Patch of ground with earth and no grass cover	<b>Estimated time:</b> 45 minutes
<b>Children’s prior experiences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are able to use a metal spoon to dig into the ground.</li> </ul>	<b>Suitable for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 – 36 months old</li> </ul>
<b>What children will experience:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will feel the texture of the earth as they dig into the ground and explore the feel the earth with their hands. They can use their palms to squeeze and mix the earth with water.</li> </ul>	<b>EYDF Pillars:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Developing Child</li> <li>• The Intentional Programme</li> </ul>
<b>What you will need:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digging tools of various sizes e.g. spoons, small garden trowels</li> <li>• Pail with water</li> <li>• Plastic egg with animal inside</li> </ul>	<b>Benefit - Risk Assessment:</b> <p><u>Benefit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will enjoy feeling the earth, getting dirty and use their fine motor skills.</li> </ul> <p><u>Risk:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flying debris while digging</li> <li>• Lack of space for children to move</li> </ul> <p><u>Management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to check the ground and prepare it for activity.</li> <li>• Ensure space is enough for the number of children.</li> <li>• Ensure no sharp objects in the ground.</li> </ul>

**How to make it happen:**

- Let children find an area they would like to dig. Demonstrate how to use the tools. Have children apart from each other to prevent accidents.
- Let the children try digging with the smaller tools first. Show them how to control the spoon / trowel to prevent the earth from 'flying'.
- Have them estimate how deep it needs be before they can bury the egg.
- Experience can be revisited on another day as children dig up the space again to retrieve the eggs.
- Alternative experience: Teacher hides eggs in dirt first and children dig for 'treasure'.