

The Farm Aistear Planning

Junior/Senior Infants

Construction

The children will create their own mini-farm using a selection of materials including paper, straws, lollipop sticks, etc. Focus initially will be on creating the farm environment of walls, fields, sheds, etc. Later the children can work on making farm animals once the physical environment has been created.

Key language focus will be on discussing the materials needed, what the farm will look like, what animals will be on the farm, where the animals will sleep, where the sheds will be located, etc.

Sand Station

The children will be given the task of finding farm animals, such as a sheep, pigs and cows in the sand. One child in the pair could hide the animal and the other could find it. Give the children specific clues, e.g. 'Can you find the pig near the trough.'

Key vocabulary: small, medium, large, extra large, round, smooth, etc.

Art 'n' Craft

Give the children the opportunity of making mini papier-mache farm animals using junk art resources, including paint, paper, PVA glue, etc. If needed, the children could be given farm animal caricatures and images that they could use as a stimulus. Children can paint and decorate their animals with glitter to complement its appearance.

The children could also be given a key task of creating a collection of farm animals, e.g. a sheep or a horse family that includes the mum, dad, baby animals, etc.

Playdough Station

Give the children specific criteria to make animals you would find on a farm using the playdough, e.g. 'Create a four-legged animal that gallops and has a long tail.' Children could also set criteria for other children to follow and have competitions to see who could meet those criteria correctly first. Have a selection of animal cards at the station that the children could use as a stimulus.



Puzzles & Board Games

The children play with and explore a selection of puzzles, mini games, and board games that have a focus on the theme of the farm and farm animals.

Small World Area

On a map, the children put their design of their farm into life in a mini-world-like environment by creating the blueprint of the farm, using mini animals and acting out the environment they have created.

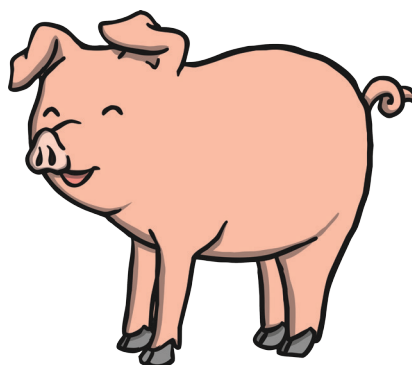
Children could also track the journey of the farm animals on a typical day on the farm, where they might start grazing in the fields in the morning and may end up nestled in the straw shed by night.

Materials needed: Small figures, place mat, mini animals, farm machinery, flowers, vegetation, etc.

Role Play Area

The Farm: Children go into role, acting out various scenarios and roles inside a teacher-constructed farm on a busy Saturday morning. Possible scenarios explored could be feeding the sheep or rounding up the cattle to be brought to the mart, etc.

Materials needed: The Farm Aistear Pack, role cards, farm images etc.



Opportunities for Assessment During Play

Construction

Observe the children constructing the mini farm setting. Are they using the correct modelled language? Are they working well with others? Have they followed the instructions correctly? Is this setting suitable for animals to live in.

Sand Station

Set key criteria for the children to follow, e.g. 'Find a baby lamb near the shed.' Did they follow and meet the criteria?

Observe and ask questions based on it.

Art 'n' Craft

Engage in an artist chat with the children about their artwork at the station. What farm animal have you created? Have you given it a name? What does it look like in real life? What does it eat?

Have the children followed the key criteria set in the task? Have they created animals that live on a farm? Do the animals resemble their lifelike animals?

Playdough Station

Observe the children. Take anecdotal records. Ask simple key questions. Can the children create farm families using the playdough? Do the animals resemble real life animals?

Puzzles & Board Games

Can the children follow simple instructions? Can they work well with others? Do they work better independently? How long does it take them to complete the activity?

Small World Area

Ask the children to tell you what the mini figures in the area are. What are they doing? Where can they go on the farm? Where do they sleep?

Role Play Area

Are the children using the correct modelled language? Are they getting into role? Are they working well in the various scenarios? Are they contributing to the drama?

Opportunities for Assessment After Play

To Be Completed Each Day or at the End of Each Week

- Ask the children to draw a picture of their favourite part of Aistear that day or for that week, for the 'Aistear Learning Log Entry'.
- If possible, an adult might narrate or act as a scribe recording what the child is describing in their picture.
- Prompt the children and compose a list on the board of all the key vocabulary that the children used during the day/week and add to it each day.

Follow Up Activity

The Farm Animal Game, The Farm Sorting Activity, The Farm Food Sorting Activity, The Farm Colouring Sheet, The Farm Review Card.