

Special Educational Needs Rationale – Blackberry Picking

Blackberry Picking is an educational experience based on Seamus Heaney's much-loved poem of the same name which will be tailored to your pupils with Special Educational Needs. It will include: an abridged exhibition tour; a shared storytelling session and/or poetry reading; a tasty Blackberry Picnic; and an opportunity to get creative using blackberry ink. A dedicated team of guides, a creative learning officer, and an education officer will be here to enrich your learning experience.

Curriculum Areas of Learning addressed by this programme:

Communication

- listening to a wide range of stories and poems, talking about stories, recalling, describing;
- developing auditory and visual discrimination and memory, share a range of books with adults/other children;
- talking about ideas represented in their drawings, development of fine motor skills, use a wide range of vocabulary in their writing

The World Around Us

- show curiosity about the living things, places, objects and materials in the environment;
- understand that some things change over time;
- understand that some materials change if kept in different conditions;
- be aware of the local natural environment and their place in it

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

- explore their own and others' feelings and emotions;
- express a senses of self-awareness;
- show respect when working and playing together

The Arts

- investigate and talk about colours, lines, shapes, textures and patterns;
- explore and use different materials and processes;
- create and develop ideas using colours, lines, shapes, textures and patterns;
- use senses to explore real things;
- begin to develop a range of skills using materials, tools and processes

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities addressed by this programme:

- Managing information;
- Being creative;
- Working with others;
- Self-management

As a result of participation in the Blackberry Picking programme pupils will receive a greater appreciation of the world around them and a real sense of pride in their local environment, each instilled through the work of Seamus Heaney.

In order for us to provide the best possible experience which caters for the specific needs of your pupils, please email our Education Officer roisin.convery@midulstercouncil.org or call Seamus Heaney HomePlace on 028 79387444 to discuss a personalised visit.