

## *Foundation Stage Rationale – Blackberry Picking*

Blackberry Picking is an educational experience based on Seamus Heaney's much-loved poem of the same name tailored to Foundation Stage pupils which includes: an abridged exhibition tour, perfect for younger visitors; a shared storytelling session; a tasty Teddy Bears' Picnic; and an opportunity to paint using blackberry ink during a creative play session. A dedicated team of Visitor Experience 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 sense 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.

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For information and booking, please email our Education Officer [roisin.convery@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:roisin.convery@midulstercouncil.org) or call Seamus Heaney HomePlace on 028 79387444

