

# The outdoor classroom

The outdoor area is as important as the indoor area. It provides opportunities for:

- Gross motor skills, e.g. running, skipping
- Social skills, e.g. playing cooperatively, conflict resolution, sharing
- Exercise for good health

Have designated areas for different types of activities:

- A space for running
- A space for climbing, hanging and swinging
- An area for pretend play
- A resting area
- A water play area
- A sand area

A list of outdoor equipment:

- Climbing apparatus: jungle gym, nets, ladders
- Swinging: swings, monkey ropes, tyre swings
- Sliding: slide, ramps, flattened cardboard boxes
- Play house, large boxes, tunnels (cement pipes or large drums)
- Sand and water play: sand pit or sand tray, bath or basin, tins, plastic containers, mugs, cake pans, funnels, sieves, colanders, spoons, jugs, plastic bottles, squeeze bottles, sponges, containers with holes, straws, egg whisks
- Small plastic tables and chairs
- Jumping: skipping ropes, tyres, tubes, old mattress
- Pulling, pushing and riding: boxes, plastic crates with a rope to pull it along, tyres, tricycles, wheelbarrows and prams
- Balancing: balance beam, planks supported by bricks, tyres, see-saw and stilts (rope and tins)
- Pretend play: traffic signs and tracks, steering wheels of old cars, hats, helmets, adult-sized clothes, bags, empty boxes (cereal, food, etc), tins, plastic containers, sunglasses, old binoculars
- Catching, throwing, kicking and hitting: balls, bats, beanbags
- Building: blocks, boxes
- Gardening play: watering cans, small garden forks and spades, seeds

