



Life-size planning

Planning for physical change to your site can be quite daunting, but using props to represent features and objects can help you plan your outdoor space, and encourage children and young people to be imaginative and communicate their ideas. Using everyday objects or items you may already have on your site, this activity asks learners to create life-size models of what they want to implement to plan space and feasibility, and visualise their ideas.

Teaching time

45 minutes - 1 hour

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate the feasibility of an intervention
- Take multiple factors and viewpoints into account when forming an opinion and making a decision
- Understand the importance of collaboration, teamwork and planning to implement successful nature-based interventions

Step by step

First, decide on the location of a particular space you want to make your change – is there a focus area your group want to improve? Can you split into smaller groups and each work on a different area or solution?

You are going to lay out on the ground suggested designs for your spaces so you will need items to do this with. To get a clear indication of how the design is going to work, the ideal scale to work on is 1:1, i.e. life-size. You can refer to our **Materials guidance** for ideas on materials – these may include rope, flower pots, cones, bamboo cane or long sticks, netting or sheets, natural materials, and string or clothes pegs to secure items.

This is an imaginative exercise! Help the group you are working with think about what each piece of equipment could represent – if marking out a path, perhaps rope or sticks make sense. If deciding where to place a pond, does a fabric or tarpaulin sheet visualise this best?

If several groups are having a go, compare solutions at the end – ask each group to share what they have planned with their life-size objects.

You may wish to vote on which design everyone likes best, or discuss the designs and take the best features of each to input into the final solution. Some evaluative questions can help children and young people understand if their ideas are suitable, for example:

- Does it fit in the space? Is it the right size?
- Is it safe to locate it here?
- Does it obscure or block anything?
- Does it look how you imagined?
- Does it work in the space?

Adapted from "Learn and Play Out" by [Learning through Landscapes](#)

Green Skills



Suitable for

Key Stage 1
Key Stage 2
Key Stage 3

Location

Outdoors

Season

Spring
Summer
Autum
Winter

What you'll need

A range of PE equipment or household items, for example:

Rope
Flower pots
Cones
Sheets
Bamboo cane or sticks
Natural materials from your site
String or clothes pegs

Key vocabulary

Plan
Scale
Decision making
Prototype

Support and extension opportunities

It is helpful to take photographs during the activity, and at the end to document and reflect on what everyone created.

You can also extend this activity into maths/geography - try and create a scale drawing of the plan.

