

Cost: £5000

Project location: Isobel Family Centre

Stewarton Road Newton Mearns

Isobel Mair Family Centre

IMFC Nature Nurture Project



The IMFC Nature Nurture project aims to enhance the outdoor learning experiences of children aged 0-5 years with complex additional support needs who attend Isobel Mair Family Centre.

We hope to create a peaceful sensory garden which will enable our children to develop their sensory pathways, using the connections in the brain that are responsible for sight, touch, sound and more and will encourage sensory exploration.

As described by the sensory garden trust; *'we experience everything through our senses and the more senses we engage, the richer the experience and the more we remember'*.

The funding will contribute towards the groundworks for an accessible sensory garden, which all of our children will be able benefit from regardless of their mobility and support needs.

We will incorporate accessible paths and include sensory stimulating textures, sounds and colours through the use of different surfaces and sections to walk or 'wheel' over will allow children to explore many textures and tactile elements such as wooden logs, cobbles, and crunchy gravel. The area will be enclosed with wooden fencing to keep children safe and make the area secure when not in use.

We will source further funding to purchase a variety of trees, bushes and sensory plants and herbs. The addition of a water feature, wind chimes, coloured windmills and a bug hotel will provide further sensory stimuli.

Isobel Mair Family Centre provides care and education for children with additional support and complex care, medical and health needs. The Family Centre is an inclusive learning environment for children across East Renfrewshire who have complex additional support needs.

Our sensory garden will support children with complex Additional Support Needs to explore the outdoor world.

A purpose built sensory garden will offer a safe space and freedom for children to explore and will provide us with an outdoor area for family learning opportunities where parents and children can play and explore together at a multi-sensory level.

The sensory garden will also have a positive impact on the children's learning and wellbeing by providing a nurturing space outdoors to allow our children to safely access and experience the natural environment. Connecting with the outdoors through a sensory garden will give the children the opportunity to develop holistically, supporting their physical, social, health and emotional wellbeing, which will subsequently build their confidence.

