There is just so much to learn and discover about deserts, the climate, plant life, animal life and much more. To explore the desert and arouse interest in the early years we set up our very own Small World Desert.

Creating your own Small World Desert provides an opportunity to play and learn imaginatively. It is also a sensory activity that encourages creativity and oral language development and cultural awareness.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED?

You will need a large tray or container, clean sand and mixed desert animal figurines such as camels. Camels are a huge part of the Arabian culture and were domesticated for transporting both people and goods, but also provide a good source of milk, meat and wool.

SOME IDEAS:

• Re-create the sand dunes in a desert by pushing sand together and patting gently to form hills.
• Create prints in the sand using the figurines. Compare the foot print sizes of the camels and other creatures.
• Play imaginatively and make up pretend stories with the desert animals.
• Hide the figurines in the sand and try and find them again. Introduce a large paint brush to sift the sand around to find the hidden figurines.
• Count out loud the number of figurines.
• Talk about the names of the animals and search for them in books or online.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

• Creativity
• Fine Motor Development
• Problem solving
• Language development – naming desert animals.
• Imagination and pretend play
• Sensory play
• Awareness of other cultures