MY GREAT PLACES AND SPACES

Dear teacher,

Thank you for volunteering to be part of this great project, which aims to promote local and natural places and spaces in your local environment and Kerry, that are free to enjoy! It is aimed for 3rd to 6th Class children.

Enclosed you will find the children's sheet which asks them to: "Write a little about an outdoor Place or Space that you enjoy spending time in, that is free to use, near where you live and in Kerry. Tell us what you enjoy most about this place, we are particularly interested in everyday places and surprises!"

As a teacher, you can choose to do the activity as you wish. Below are a few suggestions. It's up to you!
When exploring this with the children you might consider:

- Ask the children to close their eyes and think of their favourite outdoor place in Kerry near where you live? Somewhere they enjoy, that is free and outdoors.
- Imagine now…what are you doing? Seeing? Hearing? Feeling? Smelling? Maybe tasting?

Think back…when was the last time they were there? What were they doing? Who was there with them.

(Take a few minutes for children to do this reflection individually)

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As a Group explore:

- **Ask the children, what were the places they thought of (near where they live), that's outdoors and free.**
- **Ask why? What did they like most?**
- **Ask who were they with when they were at this place?**
- **Ask how does this place make them feel?**
- **(For example: happy, calm, adventurous, close to nature, energetic, relaxed etc)**
- **Ask children generally, how much time they spend outdoors?**
- **Is it every day, or maybe less than that?**
- **Ask is being outdoors good for us? In what way, or why? e.g. feel good/happy/free, eases worries/anxiety, exercise, spend time with friends/family, fun, vitamin D, relax, gives you energy.**
- **Ask the children if they were to draw or write this place what words, pictures, colours now come to mind?**
- **Imagine they are being interviewed for radio or TV about their local place, what would they say?**

Present the child's work sheet and explain this project is across schools in Kerry: North, South, East and West. Children from different schools across the county will be drawing and writing about their favourite places. Their school will be part of it.

Read through the children's worksheet and explain that all pictures will be sent to the Education Centre in Tralee, where they hope to display them over different months of the year for all to see! Then, some will be selected for a giant map to use with children and families. The map may be available in public places, such as libraries and schools.

Encourage them to do their best, have fun and to enjoy it!