**Date:**

**Activity:**

Shearing and wool

**Objectives:**

* Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside
* Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals
* Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them.
* Describe the basic needs of animals
* Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals
* Use all their senses in a hands-on exploration of natural materials
* Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things

**Equipment**

* Shearing equipment
* Lanolin sheet
* Fleeces, sheets/boards to roll on
* What happens at the wool board sheet
* Sorting buckets, water, soap, brush
* Spinning using a pencil instructions / pencil
* Items made from wool
* White card/ Black card cut outs of sheep, clothes pegs, Pritt stick, wool, googly eyes

**Main activity**

Why do we need to shear the sheep?

Sheep grow wool continuously to protect them from the weather. Wool is a natural product of the sheep's life cycle and the welfare of sheep is improved by them being shorn every 12 months. Shearing keeps sheep cool in the warmer months and reduces the risk of parasitic infestation and disease.

Where does the wool come from?

**Watch some sheep being sheared / given the opportunity to hold shears**

What does it feel like?

Can you feel the waxy/ oily = lanolin. The sheep produce this to help shed water and keep them dry. Lanolin can used in the following products: baby oil, diaper rash products, lip balm, lotions, skin creams, medicated shampoos, shave creams, and moisturizers for nursing mothers.

**Children can have a go at rolling a fleece**

The farmer then takes the wool to the wool board using the truck and the livestock trailer

At the wool board the wool is:

– sorted (different wools are used for different things)

– washed and cleaned (scouring)

– carded

– spun into yarn

**Children will be given the opportunity to sort, wash, clean, card and spin (spinning using a pencil)**

What can wool be used for?

Show children some products made from wool

Why should we use wool?

Wool is a natural product and with the correct treatment processes is the highest-ranking sustainable fibre in the clothing industry for the environment, especially for its long lifespan. It is also UV resistant, flame resistant and machine washable.

**Make a woolly sheep**

**Check what else is happening on the farm**