



# Monitoring and Evaluation Ideas

Step 6: Monitoring and Evaluation is the step that schools and nurseries around the world find the most difficult, but it can be very simple if you introduce it when creating your Action Plan. Below are some easy ways to Monitor and Evaluate including examples the Eco-Schools team have seen successfully used in Early Years settings throughout England.

## Before and After Photos



Taking before and after photos is a simple, quick, and effective, way to demonstrate the progress of your Eco-Schools project work (as long as you remember to take the before photo). Before and after photos are especially useful for School Grounds actions such as creating a forest school area.

## Targets

Set a target and create a display that can be regularly updated to help monitor your progress, this is a great, visual way to keep children informed. Targets are especially useful for fundraising projects in our Global Citizenship topic, but can be used in plenty of our other topics for example a Litter target might be to collect 1000 pieces of litter or a School Grounds target might be to plant 15 trees.





## Tallies and Counting

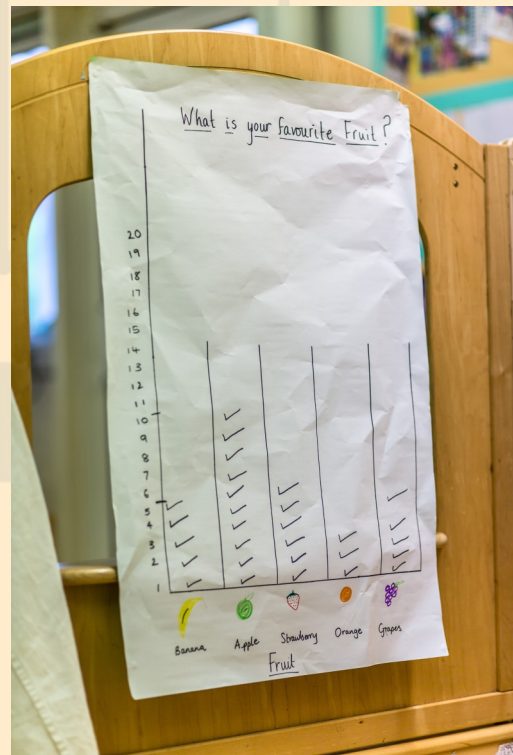
Once you have created a tally chart, children on your Eco-Committee can be responsible for keeping a tally and counting the results, which is also a great way to demonstrate curriculum links. Tally charts are great for Transport projects that monitor how children travel to school or Waste topic actions focusing on recycling individual items.



Milk bottles Recycled ~~11~~ 11

## Charts and Graphs

Early Years children may be too young to create their own charts or graphs, but they can still interact with them and begin to understand them. You could draw a pictogram depicting how many bags of litter you have collected for our Litter topic, create a line graph to show energy savings in our Energy topic or draw a bar chart showing what children's favourite fruit and vegetables are when designing a new lunch menu for our Healthy Living topic.





## Surveys



One of the Eco-Schools teams favourite methods of Monitoring and Evaluation are surveys. Surveys can be used to search for and identify insects on a mini-beast hunt or birds whilst completing the Big Schools' Birdwatch. For best results complete surveys before and after topic actions—for example before and after creating a bug hotel or bird feeders for our Biodiversity topic.

## Measuring

Finally, simple measuring. Luggage scales are vital piece of kit for many Eco-Committees—perfect for weighing the amount of litter collected or waste diverted from landfill, they are also cheap and readily available. Get out your rulers— sunflower growing competitions are great for getting parents involved too!

