Exploring Living, Dead and Never Alive

Key points

- In Reception, children begin to learn about the world around them as part of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) curriculum.
- A key skill is classifying things into three groups: living, dead, or never alive.
- Children learn to identify living things by asking simple questions, such as whether something grows or needs food.
- Some things, like clouds or fire, can be tricky because they move even though they are not alive.
- This simple sorting activity helps children build thinking skills they will use throughout their time in primary school.

Things to try at home

- Go for a short walk and spot things together, like a ladybird, a fallen leaf, or a pebble.
- Play a guessing game asking, 'Does it need water to grow?' to decide if it is living.
- Find a few items in the garden or park and gently sort them into three piles: living, dead, and never alive.
- Look at a toy animal and a real animal to talk about the differences in a playful way.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for EYFS framework guidance
- Your school's parent handbook or newsletter