

HIGHLY SPRUNG PERFORMANCE



GROW IN THE GARDEN



PROJECT REPORT
JUNE- JULY 2025

HIGHLYSPRUNG
THEATRE THAT MOVES



HELLO...

A word from...

**Sarah Worth, Executive Director,
Highly Sprung Performance**

"We are incredibly proud to share the story of Grow in the Garden it has been a real joy of a project that has resonated deeply with our core values. From the very beginning, this reimaged outdoor performance set out to spark joy, wonder, and connection for younger children and it has done just that and more.

Touring to libraries, playgrounds, schools and family hubs, Grow in the Garden created unforgettable moments for nearly 1,000 children aged 3-7. Children interacted, imagined, questioned and cared. They discovered stories of the environment from the ground to the sky and started to understand the power they hold to protect the world around them and care for the nature they access.

The response has been extraordinary. From wide-eyed wonder to thoughtful reflections about nature, the children's voices rang loud and clear: they got it. They felt it. And they'll carry it with them. This wasn't just a performance, it was an experience that made a difference, growing not only knowledge but connection, care, and confidence.

This project is a celebration of creativity, community, and the boundless potential of early years engagement. We're so proud of what it's become, and even more excited for how it will grow next."

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Grow in the Garden is a reimagined outdoor touring adaptation of GROW, a movement-based performance for children aged 3-7, designed to inspire a love of the natural world through storytelling, dance, and immersive sensory experiences.

Originally developed in 2023, the 2025 tour extended the project's reach across early years and community settings in CV postcodes and beyond, with the aim of engaging children facing disadvantage and encouraging them to develop more positive relationships with nature.



KEY STATISTICS

Here's a look at what the project has achieved, numbers that reflect a performance full of joy, connection and impact.

TOTAL PERFORMANCES

17

VENUES VISITED

13

TOTAL NUMBER OF AUDIENCE

981

PARTICIPATING SETTINGS

Schools, nurseries, libraries and family hubs

All performances were delivered free of charge

47% of children qualify for Free School Meals

28% with English as an Additional Language

39% with Special Educational Needs

44% living in Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 1 areas*

*Indicating the areas of highest deprivation in the country
Demographic statistics averaged across venues, using indicative data



PROJECT IMPACTS

Reach children aged 3-7 from underprivileged backgrounds with meaningful outdoor arts experiences

The project reached 981 children (surpassing our original target of 600), with a strong concentration in priority CV postcodes and areas in Birmingham with comparable need.

Audiences included high proportions of children qualifying for Free School Meals, with Special Educational Needs and/or from the global majority, which met our targeted reach.

POSTCODES REACHED

Postcodes reached: **CV1, CV2, CV4, CV6, CV10, CV1, B36, B37** and **B91** postcodes. Representing the following areas/wards:

In **Coventry**: Henley and Foleshill, Binley & Willenhall and St Michael's

In **Solihull/Birmingham**: Meriden, Kinghurst & Fordbridge, Central Solihull, Smith's Wood and Redditch area



HIGHLY SPRUNG PERFORMANCE

Inspire environmental awareness and emotional connection with nature through performance

The performance successfully engaged children in themes of caring for nature, future sustainability, and shared responsibility. Observations and post-show discussions demonstrated a strong take-up of key messages from children.

Children retained and repeated core environmental messages and showed a clear emotional response to the themes of care, repair and sustainability.



“We need to water the plants and give them sun.”

“We can look after our world by caring for the plants.”



“Rubbish can go into the sea. We should put it in the bin.”

“They saved a fish and put it back in the water.”



“We should plant more plants and trees.”

“There was junk in the sea that was hurting the creatures.”

HIGHLY SPRUNG PERFORMANCE

Build stronger pathways to nature connectedness

The project was designed in line with the five pathways to nature connectedness (Contact, Beauty, Meaning, Emotion, Compassion), and qualitative evidence confirms this approach resonated with children:

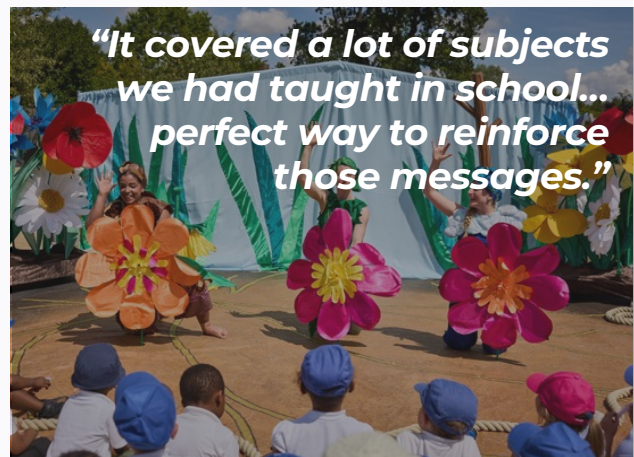
- Contact: Outdoor performances surrounded by natural elements increased sensory and physical engagement with nature.
- Beauty & Meaning: The aesthetic experience of the show and its narrative allowed children to find beauty and personal meaning in their environment.
- Emotion & Compassion: Storylines encouraged empathy, action and care, especially in response to pollution and the harm of wildlife.



Provide a high-quality cultural experiences to improve access to the arts

Teachers and practitioners consistently praised the quality of the performance and its impact on children’s learning and enjoyment.

“It brought caring for the planet to life...in a magical way.”



Strengthen family and community engagement with creative and nature-based learning

Several performances were delivered in partnership with family hubs and community spaces, like libraries, offering opportunities for shared experiences among children, parents and carers. In the future the project will build on this by expanding family-facing activity and offering take-home resources to continue the learning journey at home.



CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Grow in the Garden successfully delivered against all of its original project objectives, offering an accessible, high-quality creative experience for nearly 1,000 children, many of whom face significant disadvantage. The project's structure and delivery model aligned with best practice in early years arts and nature-based learning, creating powerful moments of joy, curiosity and care for the environment.

Highly Sprung will use the insights from this tour to inform future iterations of the project, including opportunities for deeper engagement with families, repeat visits to schools in priority areas, and broader evaluation of long-term impact. Continued investment will allow Grow in the Garden to further embed creative environmental education at the heart of children's lives across our region.





THANK YOU

We are so grateful to our funders...



[Link to Project Trailer](#)

All Images: Andy Moore

www.highlysprungperformance.co.uk

