

Outdoor Learning Experience (Birth to 3 years old)

Learning experience: Sorting of Nature Items	Shared by: Magdelene Chong
Environment: Outdoor space around the playground	Estimated time: 40 minutes
Children’s prior experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should be able to recognise the nature items found around the playground space such as leaves, flowers and twigs. They have previously learned the topic on ‘Plants’. 	Suitable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 – 24 months old (toddler) • 24 – 36 months old
What children will experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will observe nature in the outdoor space around them and choose nature items to pick. 	EYDF Pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Developing Child • The Intentional Programme
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small basket for each child • 2 trays – one for leaves and one for twigs • 4 hula hoops 	Benefit - Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants and toddlers learn how the world works through play and exploration. This activity encourages them to explore their environment freely which over time, builds their confidence in handling materials independently. <u>Risk:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the environment for potential hazards (e.g., sharp objects) • Suitability of the open space • Adequate adult supervision • Access to help (e.g., vicinity to centre, communication devices) • Ensure that children are within sight <u>Management:</u>

- Scan the venue to ensure it is free from potential hazards such as sharp objects, pot holes, broken tiles or insects
- Set limits/boundary for children to explore
- Ensure teachers have sight of the children at all times

How to make it happen:

1. Gather the children together.
2. Guide children in recalling some nature things that they saw while they were out on nature walks previously.
3. Provide each child with a small basket.
4. Let the children know that they will be going for a nature walk around the school. Encourage the children to observe the nature materials while they walk. They have a choice to pick the natural items that they have found in the basket.
5. While children are out for their nature walk, teachers ensure that children are within sight when they are picking up the nature items.
6. Once the children have collected the nature items, the teacher will gather them in an open area with shade.
7. Children can form a circle, place three hula hoops in the middle of the circle. Give children some time to observe the nature items that they have picked from the short walk.
8. The children take turns to place all the leaves (they have collected) in the first hula hoop. After that, they will take turns to place all the flowers (they have collected) in the second hula hoop. Finally, children would be invited to place all the twigs (they have collected) in the third hula hoop.
9. Teacher asks the children to look at the materials left in their own baskets and name them. She can take out a fourth hula hoop and create another category for the nature item (e.g., others, pebbles).
10. After the sorting activity, teacher summarises by encouraging the children to name the nature materials – ‘Leaves’, ‘Flowers’ and ‘Twigs’
Teacher encourages the children to return the nature materials back to nature (where they belong) after the activity.