

Outdoor Learning Experience (4 to 5 years old)

Learning Experience: Nature Mandalas	Shared by: Debbie Ong
Environment: Outdoor environment (open space with access to leaves, sticks and natural materials)	Estimated time: 45 minutes
Children’s prior knowledge: Children are able to count items.	
What children will experience (NEL Learning Areas): Numeracy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will count to 5. Aesthetic and Creative Expression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will share their thoughts, feelings and ideas with others. Discovery of the World: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will observe and describe their observations in the natural environment. Social and Emotional Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will cooperate with peers to complete tasks. 	Suitable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 to 5 years old
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A basket/container for each child • Natural materials (sticks, flowers, twigs, pebbles, stones, seeds, leaves) found in the outdoors 	Benefit-Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have opportunities to pay closer attention to things they see in the natural environment • Children will have opportunities to describe their feelings and artwork with others <u>Risk:</u>

- Be aware of those who are allergic to plants. To provide alternative material to children who have such allergy.
- Ground may have debris or hazardous materials

Management:

- 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. Provide each child with a basket/container.
2. Get the children to put in their basket/container, 5 objects they found in the natural environment that look and feel similar.
3. Gather the children to share about why they think the 5 objects they found are similar.
4. Ask the children with a prompt, "How can you make a pattern that starts from the middle?"
5. Demonstrate how to start a mandala.
6. If the children have not done a mandala or seen one before, a hula hoop or circle drawn on the ground using chalk will help children to create a nature mandala.
7. Encourage the children to start from the centre and work outwards.
8. Group the children in small groups of 3 or 4 to work together to form a nature mandala by combining resources together.
9. Once the nature mandalas are completed, conduct a gallery walk with the children.
10. Get children to share about the objects used to create their mandala. Encourage them to elaborate on the ideas and thoughts during the process.
11. Take photographs of the children's work and extend the learning back in the classroom.

Photographs:

