

Outdoor Learning Experience (5 and 6 years old)

Learning Experience: Puppeteers' Gala	Shared by: Tan Khee Huan, Moon
Environment: Any outdoor open space, in school garden or playground	Estimated time: 45 minutes
Children's prior knowledge: NA	
What children will experience (NEL Learning Areas): Language and Literacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children will create a story based on the outdoor environment (school garden, playground). Aesthetics and Creative Expression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children will create different hand/stick puppets using their imagination with open-ended materials. 	Suitable for: 5 - 6 years old <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 years old ● 6 years old
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 15 paper bags ● Scissors ● Coloured felt cloth ● Googly eyes ● White glue bottles ● Markers ● Buttons ● Crayons ● Construction papers ● Pipe cleaners 	Benefit-Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Away from the constraints and confinement of indoor play, children's imaginations are often stimulated by nature and things in the outdoor environment. They tap into their creativity to tell their versions of stories, and create puppets based on their stories.

	<p><u>Risk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concrete surfaces ● Broken or faulty play equipment ● Potential entrapment due to gaps or broken surfaces ● Pinch points and sharp edges around the play equipment ● Protruding nails from the equipment ● Trip hazards on the rubber safety flooring ● Overcrowded play areas (during specific timing) ● Contaminated and dangerous items such as broken glass and syringes. <p><u>Management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recce the outside space or playground, and identify any potential risks as stated above. Contact the town council to rectify any faulty equipment or flooring, to ensure the condition is suitable for children to move around. ● Children can be educated to look out for any dangerous items on the identified areas, and alert the teachers if they discover them. For example, nails or broken glass. ● Provide a pictorial list of dangerous items for children to take ownership in ensuring the environment is free from hazards.
<p>How to make it happen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and recce two suitable sites in lieu of wet weather plans. 2. Select a book to share with children during the outdoor session. 	

3. Prepare some questions to stimulate children's thinking.
4. Conduct storytelling in the open space or playground using puppets.
5. After the storytelling, divide children into groups of 5.
6. Invite children to create their own versions of the story (for example, by changing the ending of the story or invent additional story character to heighten the story plot).
7. Move around to listen to children's stories. Provide them with open materials to create their puppets.
8. Once children have completed their puppet creation, provide time for children to play and re-enact their versions of the story.
9. When the activity is over, facilitate clean up and fetch children back into the classroom.

Note:

This activity can be done in two parts – changing the story in one activity and then creating the puppets in another activity.

The activity can act as a continuum of children's learning. Encourage children to bring their puppets outdoor for extension of play or change the story plot again when they play. Let them explore the endless possibilities of play and integrated learning experiences.