

## Outdoor Learning Experience (4, 5 and 6 years old)

<b>Learning Experience:</b> Insect Hunt!	<b>Shared by:</b> Yannie Soo
<b>Environment:</b> Outdoor garden	<b>Estimated time:</b> 30 minutes
<b>Children’s prior knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are able to identify some common insects and use the magnifying glass.</li> </ul>	
<b>What children will experience (NEL Learning Areas):</b>  Discovery of the World: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children will use the magnifying glass to observe insects found in the garden.</li> <li>Children are encouraged to lift up rocks, look on tree trunk, explore around the garden as well as flower beds.</li> <li>Every child will be given a paper and clipboard for them to sketch whatever they have discovered.</li> </ul> Social Emotional Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children will observe insects’ home, children need to walk quietly, learn to be mindful of their behaviour so that insects are not frightened by them.</li> </ul>	<b>Suitable for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 and 6 years old</li> </ul>
<b>What you will need:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magnifying glasses (one for each child or two children to share one)</li> <li>Paper and pencil/marker pens/crayons</li> <li>Camera</li> <li>Activity sheet with photographs of common insects found in the garden for each child</li> </ul>	<b>Benefit-Risk Assessment:</b> <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend children’s interest and curiosity about commonly found insects in Singapore’s outdoor environment</li> <li>Children learn to enjoy outdoor activities and show respect for living things and the environment.</li> </ul>

Risk:

- Bites from harmful insects
- Fall due to uneven ground surface, minor cuts from sharp and rough surface of rocks, tree trunks, etc.

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
- Teachers to be conscious and intentional in their responses to life forms and be aware of the impact that their own reactions have on the children's perception of the world. Teachers must exemplify positive, appreciative and authentic responses to nature (fear can be shown as the 'need to be careful and cautious' of the unknown)

**How to make it happen:**

1. Before going out to the garden, invite the children to name some insects they know and hope to find in the garden.
2. Get the children to brainstorm places where insects can be found in the garden (e.g., on leaves, flowers, tree trunks, under a rock, on the ground).
3. Ask children to share their thoughts about how they should handle the insects carefully and safely (e.g., do not step on them, do not kill them, do not touch them unnecessarily).
4. Tell the children that they will share the magnifying glass with their friends. Guide them how to use the magnifying glass.
5. Bring the children to a nearby garden and let each pair of children search for insects. Children can put a tick next to the photograph of the insect on the activity sheet once they have identified the insect found. Take a photo of the insects found and encourage the children to observe the insects using their magnifying glass.
6. Show the photographs of insects found by the children in class and get them to talk about the insects. Get the children to choose an insect they have found and draw a picture of it.