

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

<p><b>Learning Experience:</b> Rock Mazes</p>	<p><b>Shared by:</b> Geraldine Hii</p>
<p><b>Environment:</b> Open area that has a flat surface, e.g., badminton court, empty space near the playground.</p>	<p><b>Estimated time:</b> 30 – 40 minutes (60 minutes to allow time for children to collect pebbles and rocks from the environment)</p>
<p><b>Children’s prior knowledge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have experiences solving maze problems.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What children will experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will engage in activities in the outdoor environment such as picking up pebbles and rocks of different shapes and sizes where they learn about the nature of the surfaces of the earth, concepts of heavy and light, rough and smooth, and large and small.</li> <li>• Children will suggest and try possible ways to solve problems.</li> </ul> <p><b>NEL Learning Areas</b></p> <p>Discovery of the World:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out simple investigations to find out how things work through simple investigations</li> </ul> <p>Social Emotional Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build relationships with others through working collaboratively</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suitable for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years old</li> <li>• 6 years old</li> </ul>
<p><b>What you will need:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baskets for children to pick up small pebbles and rocks for the building of the mazes</li> <li>• ice-cream sticks (in the event that pebbles are not available substitutions such as can be used)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Benefit-Risk Assessment:</b></p> <p><u>Benefit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a maze would enhance children’s cognitive thought processes and creativity.</li> </ul>

- Small toy vehicles / figurines x 4

- Solving the maze provides opportunities for children's development of learning dispositions such as: perseverance and inventiveness.

Risk:

- Sharp edges of the stones/pebbles
- Uneven surfaces

Management:

- Checking of 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)

**How to make it happen:**

1. Children to go around to pick up enough pebbles and rocks for the creation of their mazes.
2. Make sure that each child has ample space outdoors and is not too close to each other.
3. Each child will create their own maze and invite their friends to try it out using the toy vehicles or figurines.
4. Prompt children to think of ways to make their mazes more challenging e.g., obstacles that create dead ends.
5. Encourage children to create their own stories with the figurines / vehicles that they have brought along to try out the mazes.

**Photographs:**

