

Outdoor Learning Experience (Birth to 2 years)

Learning experience: Natural Sights and Sounds	Shared by: Catherine Liew
Environment: A park in the vicinity	Estimated time: 20 to 30 minutes
Children’s prior experiences: Children are familiar with the park which they have been visiting frequently.	Suitable for: 18 – 24 months old
What children will experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will observe and explore the natural objects/loose parts found, e.g. and the texture of these materials and sounds they could produce. • Children may discover more about shapes and sizes of materials when trying to fit them into the opening of a given bottle. • Children will enjoy the openness of space the park offers and exhibit a sense of wonder and curiosity. 	EYDF Pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Developing Child • The Intentional Programme
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty plastic bottles (500ml) with caps - one for each child • A picnic mat • Empty buckets - one for each teacher 	Benefit - Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outdoor environment provides a sensorial experience, e.g., breeze, heat, outdoor sounds, etc. <u>Risk:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may pick up hazardous items and put them into their mouth. <u>Management:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scan the venue to ensure it is free from potential hazards such as sharp objects, pot holes, broken tiles or insects.

- Assign more adults during outdoor activities to provide a lower teacher: child ratio so as to ensure closer monitoring of toddlers who may put found items into their mouths.
- Apply insect-repellent.
- Bring along a first-aid kit.

How to make it happen:

1. At the park, talk about what children can see around the park and what can be found on the ground.
2. Encourage them to look for small objects which they see on the ground such as sand, stones, sticks, dried leaves and if possible small flowers and dirt, and place them in the bucket. Get the children to feel the texture of the objects before placing them into the bucket.
3. Find an open spot, lay the picnic mat for the children to sit on as they explore the natural objects that they have collected. (Teachers to ask open-ended questions to encourage children to use their five senses to explore and observe the found objects)
4. Have the children select and put the objects into the empty bottles. Cap the bottles and tighten them after the children have placed their chosen objects into the bottle.
5. Let the children shake their bottles and draw their attention to the sounds created as they shake their bottles. Talk about the sounds they hear.
6. Place these bottles at the discovery corner for the children to explore and play with when they are in the classroom.