

Outdoor Learning Experiences (3 years old)

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| <p>Learning experience: Using Nature Items to Form Letters of Their Names</p> | <p>Submitted by: Magdelene Chong</p> |
| <p>Environment: Outdoor space around the playground (nearby the centre)</p> | <p>Estimated time: 45 minutes</p> |
| <p>Children’s prior experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should be able to identify the nature items (e.g., leaves, twigs, flowers, seeds) found in the space around the bushes and space around the playground. • Children should also be able to identify the first letter of their names. | <p>Suitable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 – 36 months old |
| <p>What children will experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have first-hand sensory experience with the natural world and they would be encouraged to explore the space around them and make choices. | <p>EYDF Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Developing Child • The Intentional Programme |
| <p>What you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baskets for children • A4 size papers | <p>Benefit - Risk Assessment:</p> <p><u>Benefit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering children to be independent helps develop their self-esteem and identity, and ensures their well-being. As they attempt to make choices and take on increasing responsibilities, their sense of themselves as competent individuals grow. <p><u>Risk:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the 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 etc) |

- Ensure that children are within sight

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
- Display a signage of the activity to inform public

How to make it happen:

1. Ask the children to prepare for the walk around the space near to their playground.
2. Each of the children will be given a basket. They will be encouraged to pick nature items (e.g., seeds, twigs, leaves, flowers) that they like and put them in the basket.
3. After the children have chosen the items, teacher brings them to an area with shade. She gathers the children in a circle and invites them to share the things that they have picked.
4. After the sharing session, the teacher brings them back into the classroom.
5. Provide each child with an A4 size paper (with the first letter of their name already written). Children are encouraged to use the nature items (that they have picked) to decorate the written letter. (e.g., John – They use the items collected to paste on alphabet 'J'). (Written letter is to guide them in pasting the nature items appropriately).
6. Once the children have finished decorating their letter, the teacher can encourage the children to use a marker to write the rest of the letters of their name. (Teacher may guide/assist those who need some help).

Conclude the lesson by inviting each child to share his/her artwork with one another. She can also encourage the children to make the sounds of their own letter.