

Outdoor Learning Experience (4 years old)

Learning Experience: Flowers and Leaves	Shared by: Catherine Liew
Environment: Open grass area or park in the vicinity	Estimated time: 20 minutes
Children's prior knowledge: Children are familiar with the different parts of a tree.	
What children will experience (NEL Learning Areas): Aesthetics and Creative Expression: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will explore elements of art through nature elements and record their findings. Discovery of the World: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will discover more about living and non-living flowers and leaves.	Suitable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 years old
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magnifying glasses (one per child)• Clip board with activity sheet for each child• Writing or drawing materials for each child	Benefit-Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children become more motivated and self-directed to explore the open space using their senses as they learn about nature. <u>Risk:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children may be cut by leaves with sharp edges. <u>Management:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the place to be explored and identify shrubs or plants with sharp leaves or thorns.• Highlight these plants to children and remind them to be careful when they

are around these plants before they start with the activity.

- Apply insect-repellent
- Bring along first-aid kit

How to make it happen:

1. Take a nature walk with children in the nearby park or open grass area with plants and shrubs.
2. Invite children to talk about what they can see and smell.
3. Have children look for fresh flowers and leaves. Provide a magnifying glass for each one to examine the patterns, shapes, lines, textures and colours of the leaves and flowers.
4. Direct them to look for dried leaves and withered flowers that they can find on the ground.
5. Get them to examine the dried leaves and flowers and compare them with the fresh ones and talk about the similarities and differences.
6. Provide a clip board with activity sheet for each child to record their findings and to draw a fresh and dried flower or leaf.