

Outdoor Learning Experience (4 to 5 years old)

Learning Experience: Painting Against a Tree	Shared by: Devaki Ramu
Environment: A space with at least 4 to 5 trees	Estimated time: 45 minutes (excluding set up)
Children’s prior knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have attempted bark rubbing. • Children can observe and have attempted still-life painting activity 	
What children will experience (NEL Learning Areas): Aesthetics and Creative Expression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will enjoy art activities – represent their ideas using various brushes. Discovery of the World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will show an interest in the world that they live in – observe and talk about their observation of the tree from their perspective. Physical Well-being <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will demonstrate control, coordination in fine motor skills – develop strength and dexterity needed to use paint brushes. 	Suitable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 to 5 years old
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint • Various types of brushes (angular, flat, round, filbert, fan, mop, rigger) • Drawing paper • Masking tape • Cardboard pieces to be used as palettes (according to number of children) • Clipboard for each child • Camera for teacher 	Benefit-Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have opportunities to talk about what they see in nature from their perspectives • Children will enjoy the sensorial experience of exploring with a variety of brushes <u>Risk:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground may have debris or hazardous materials • Ant and mosquito bites may be a concern.

Management:

- Assess the outdoor space for any hazards e.g., sharp objects, insect nests etc
- Assess the suitability of the trees e.g., strong branches
- Adequate adult supervision
- Access to help (e.g., vicinity to centre, communication devices etc)

Photographs:



How to make it happen:

1. Get children to choose their own spot at a tree and paste their paper on tree using masking tape.
2. Invite the children to stand at their spot and look up at the tree carefully for at least 15 seconds and inform them that they have to do a still-life painting of what they see when they look up at the tree (from the child's perspective).
3. Let children choose their preferred colours and scoop some paint onto their cardboard palette.
4. Encourage children to try the various brushes to imitate the pattern of the tree from their perspective.
5. As the children start observing and painting, the teacher facilitates by asking questions, such as:
 - What patterns can u see?
 - What colours have you observed?
 - How do you think you can create this part of the tree using the _____ brush?
 - Would you like to try another brush and see what happens?
6. As the children paint, teacher to remember to take a picture of each child's perspective from where the child is standing to be used later.
7. After children finish their art pieces, get the children to place their art on their own clipboard to bring it back to class.
8. Teacher displays the children's art work along with the perspective photo taken and child's description (in verbatim) at a common area where all the children can appreciate one another's art pieces.