

Outdoor Learning Experience (5 and 6 years old)

Learning Experience: Tree Dressing	Shared by: Mona Tan
Environment: Outdoor natural spaces with trees	Estimated time: 30 – 40 minutes
Children’s prior knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children know the parts of a tree 	
What children will experience (NEL Learning Areas): Language and Literacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response appropriately to show understanding of questions with gestures, expressions or word/phrases as they plan and decide how to dress the tree up Social and Emotional Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate, interact and build relationships with others by showing appreciation and care for others, work and play cooperatively with peers dressing up the tree Aesthetics and Creative Expression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use elements of art to represent ideas and feelings using materials such as yarn, cloths in different textures, paper, recycled materials to dress-up the tree 	Suitable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years old • 6 years old
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a suitable tree • A variety of loose parts such as twigs and leaves, ribbons, cloths, paper, recycled materials, yarn, ropes and strings 	Benefit-Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children can use natural materials that they can find around them • Open spaces for children to navigate and move around

Risk:

- Insects bites
- Fallen branches

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

How to make it happen:

1. Take children out for a walk and ask children to describe a tree of their choice during the walk
2. Ask questions such as: “How long do you think the trees have been here? What kind of trees are they? Do you think trees are important? Why?”
3. Invite children to dress the tree up for a particular occasion such as Chinese New Year, Christmas or Hari Raya Puasa, etc.
4. Once the tree is dressed, use it as a focal point in the setting to visit and talk about the tree and its decorations, for telling stories under the shade.