

Outdoor Learning Experience (2 to 3 years)

Learning experience: A Cozy Picnic	Shared by: Devaki Ramu
Environment: An open space with a tree that has a low branch	Estimated time: 30 minutes (excluding set up)
Children’s prior experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have play experiences at their dramatic play centre • Children are familiar with the story, ‘We’re going on a picnic’ by Pat Hutchkins • Children are familiar with, ‘The Picnic Song’: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V6Ua0dVOXc 	Suitable for: 24 – 36 months old
What children will experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will speak to communicate needs, feelings and ideas by responding to adult-initiated conversations both verbally and non-verbally. • Children will develop a sense of security and begin to have a positive sense of self and competence through demonstrating pleasure when interacting with peers and teachers. • Children will develop and engage in positive relationships and interactions with peers and teachers, through asking/requesting for something when in need of it and engaging in pretend play. 	EYDF Pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Developing Child • The Intentional Programme
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 large sheer curtains • Large picnic blanket/mat • Picnic play materials (teacher-made/children-made/commercial) from the dramatic play centre • Cushions and soft toys • Bean bags/bottles of water (to act as weight) 	Benefit - Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will enjoy chatting with the peers and teachers during pretend play • Children will enjoy playing in nature with peers <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 tree used e.g. strong trunk used for the temporary shelter
- Adequate adult supervision
- Access to help (e.g., vicinity to centre, communication devices etc)

How to make it happen:

1. Prior to this activity, the children should be familiar with the story, 'We're going on a picnic' by Pat Hutchkins.
2. Encourage the children's interest in picnic by introducing, 'The Picnic Song'.
3. Prepare picnic baskets and get the children to choose the play materials from the dramatic play centre that they would like to bring out for their picnic.
4. Set up by throwing the sheer curtains over a branch and securing the ends using weight.
5. Lay out the picnic blanket/mat with the help of the children and get them to sit around the blanket/mat.
6. Invite the children to take out all the play materials from the basket and place them neatly on the blanket/mat.
7. While encouraging conversations, model pouring tea, serving cakes and using polite words.
8. Observe the children as they interact with their peers and ask questions to sustain their conversations with their peers.
9. Ask:
 - What are you sharing today?
 - What kind of cake are you having? Have you had such cakes before?
 - What is your favourite food to have on a picnic?
 - Do you think teddy would like to join you on this picnic? Why/Why not?

Photographs:

