

Nature Connection EYFS

Session Overviews and Learning Objectives

Session 1: Sensory Scavenger Hunts and Wild Art

- This session is suitable for one class at a time of up to 30 pupils
- It will last up to 60 minutes
- Required ratio – 1 adult:6 pupils

This session allows the pupils to explore the reserve using all their senses, with activities designed to focus attention and to connect with nature: find a collection of touches, mix and make nature's perfume, listen to the sounds of the woods and create natural artworks.

All equipment is provided

Session Outline

Time	Location	Activity
5 minutes	Visitor Centre	Collect equipment and walk to Copse
5 minutes	Copse	What are our senses? What senses will we be exploring today?
10 minutes	Copse	A collection of touches
10 minutes	Copse	Nature's Perfume
5 minutes	Copse	Sound circle
10 minutes	Copse	Soil painting
10 minutes	Copse	Andy Goldsworthy style wild art
5 minutes	Visitor Centre	Return to centre to wash hands

Learning Objectives

- All will have the opportunity to explore the natural world around them
- All will have the opportunity to explore and gather some natural materials
- All will be able to use their senses to explore trees
- Some will work collaboratively with others to create a piece of natural art
- A few will be able to express their feelings about their experiences
- A few will be able to share their creations
- A few will recall the name of a tree.

Session 2: The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Invertebrate Hunting

- This session is suitable for one class at a time of up to 30 pupils
- It will last up to 60 minutes
- Required ratio – 1 adult:6 pupils

An exciting way to bring books to life. Follow the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, discuss the lifecycle and what caterpillars really feed on. Hunt for caterpillars and other invertebrates and explore symmetry with Matching Butterflies.

All equipment is provided

Session Outline

Time	Location	Activity
10 minutes	Centre	Collect equipment and walk to Minibeast Meadow
10 minutes	Minibeast Meadow	Read The Very Hungry Caterpillar Story and discuss
5 minutes	Minibeast Meadow	Role-play the lifecycle of a caterpillar/butterfly
20 minutes	Minibeast Meadow and copse	Invertebrate hunting and identification
10 minutes	Minibeast Meadow	Matching Butterflies
5 minutes	Centre	Return to centre to wash hands

Learning Objectives

- All will have the opportunity to explore the natural world around them
- All will learn what caterpillars really eat
- All will learn how to collect creatures with care and consideration for their wellbeing
- All will have first-hand experience of searching for and collecting invertebrates
- Some will be able to match leaves and recall names of common trees
- Some will be able to recall the names of some invertebrates including butterflies
- A few will be able to discuss features of invertebrates eg numbers of legs
- A few will understand the concept of symmetry

Session 3: Getting to know trees

This session is suitable for one class at a time of up to 30 pupils

- It will last up to 60 minutes
- Required ratio – 1 adult:6 pupils

All equipment is provided

This session offers an opportunity to discover trees by looking up close at the texture of the bark, leaf shapes and the creatures living on them. Pupils can discuss the difference between deciduous and evergreen species, and the different parts of a tree.

Session Outline

Time	Location	Activity
10 minutes	Centre	Collect equipment and walk to Sheepwash Woods
10 Minutes	Sheepwash Woods	Blindfold hug a tree
15 minutes	Sheepwash Woods	Getting to Know Trees using mirrors, hand lenses and making bark and leaf rubbings
10 minutes	Sheepwash Woods	Make a tree on the floor using collected natural materials- talking through the parts of a tree (roots, trunk, branches, leaves) Discuss that some trees lose their leaves, and some don't.
5 minutes	Copse	Mirror walks
10 minutes	Centre	Return to centre to wash hands

Learning objectives:

- All will have the opportunity to explore the natural world around them
- All will have the opportunity to explore and gather some natural materials
- All will be able to use their senses to explore trees
- Some will be able to name part of a tree
- A few will be able to express their feelings about their experiences
- A few will be able to share their creations
- A few will recall the name of a tree

Links to the EYFS framework:

All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting pupils' curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

We believe this session will support and develop all areas of learning and development within the Early Years Framework:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design