

Trees and Wild Art EYFS- How to guide

Collect equipment from the centre and follow the map to the Copse

Equipment

Equipment below is provided

- Getting to know Trees activity sheets
- Mirrors
- Magnifying glasses
- Wax crayons and paper for bark rubbings
- Sensory Scavenger hunt sheets
- Rope mobile
- Examples of Andy Goldsworthy art
- Soil painting brushes
- Digging spoons and small trowels
- Water (water can be topped up from the water tap in the side yard)

Instructions

1. In small groups (ideally 4 or 5 pupils with an adults) give out 'Getting to Know Trees' activity.

Each group will need:

- Getting to Know Trees sheet
- Magnifying glasses x2
- Mirrors x 2
- Wax crayons x 6 ideally of different colours
- Blank paper enough sheets for 1 per person

Groups to choose a tree to study and work through the activity sheet.

2. Sensory Scavenger hunt and rope mobile: in groups, explore the wood and collect items on the Sensory Scavenger Hunt sheet. Items should be added to the rope mobile. Demonstrate parting the string (sisal) and inserting an item to hang it without the need for knots.

Important: discuss what to and what not to pick (no nettles, prickly leaves, mushrooms, berries) not to put anything in mouths etc.

3. Look at the example work by Andy Goldsworthy; what does he use to create his art? Ask children to collect natural materials and create a piece of art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.
4. Soil painting: Using digging spoons and small trowels children can explore how soil changes when water is added to make some soil paint and paint patterns on the trees.
5. Mirror Walks: a couple of options:
 - With a partner, one pupil holds the mirror under their nose while their partner guides them along the path: the aim is to explore what it may feel like to live up in the canopy and see the woods from a different perspective.

- Ant walking: hold the mirror on the floor and move it along to get an ants perspective of the world
- Deer eyes: hold a mirror vertically beside your nose so you can see behind you, this is how deer (and most grazing animals) view the world.

Discuss: how did it feel? How is it different to the way humans see?

Important: be aware of mirrors on sunny days, do not face them into the sun.

At the end of the activity

1. Rinse soil painting brushes, spoons and trowels at tap near picnic benches in side yard.
2. Return equipment to the box and return to the centre.
3. Wash hands.

