

Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood Project Learning Tree

Participant Name: Helen Thull

Current teaching Situation: Daycare

Activity: *We All Need Trees, Activity 4, page 40-46*

Age: 1-3 years

Objectives: Taste tree fruit. Smell tree parts.
Cook and eat applesauce.
Express feelings about taste and smell.
Play outside near trees.

Vocabulary: bitter, core, odor, peel, potpourri, resin,
Scent, seed, skin, smell, sour, sweet, taste

Read: *Pie in the Sky* by Lois Ehlert, *Truffla Trees* by Dr. Seuss

Activity: Draw an imaginary tree using scented markers.

Assessment: Can the child talk about his/her tree? Do animals live in this tree? Does it have fruit or nuts?

Activity: Buzzing around from flower to flower. Place paper flowers with perfume- scents on the floor. Play music while children move around the room. When the music stops: have the child bend down and smell the flower.

Assessment: Can child recognize different smells? Are they alike or different?

Outdoor Exploration Activity Suggestions:

- Missy Smith, *The Tiny Seed*, Presentation is for elementary and younger children.
- The book, *The Tiny Seed* will be read and students will see different types of seeds.
- Visit Ashby Park, between Ashby Ave. and Douglas, Des Moines, IA. This park has evergreen trees and deciduous trees, along with a play area.

Outdoor Exploration:

- Visit Greenwood Park, 4000 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA
- Before field trip students will observe trees in the yard. What is happening to the Leaves? The leaves are no longer green. What color are they? The tree in the backyard has lots of tiny nuts called acorns. This is called a Pin Oak. What are the squirrels doing with these acorns?
- Rules to remember when going to Greenwood Park. Dress appropriately, Stay with adult leader, Do not litter or throw paper away (keep our parks clean)
- Look at the trees and see how large they are in Greenwood Park. Are they bigger than the one in the backyard? Have these trees lost their leaves? What color are their leaves? Do you see any acorns or nuts on the ground?

Home outreach: Open the cupboard and smell things. Do foods smell the same? What happens when food spoils? Does it smell bad? What is your favorite smell? Does Wood have a smell?

Standards/benchmarks/concepts:

NAEYC Accreditation Criteria for Curriculum

1.A .1 Demonstrates increasing ability to attend to and understand conversation, stories, songs and poems.

2.C.4 Shows progress in recognizing the association between spoken words and written words by following print as it is read aloud.

4.A.3 Begins to participate in simple investigations to test observations, discuss and draw conclusions and form generalizations.

5.A.1 Participates with increasing interest and enjoyment in a variety of music activities, including listening, singing, finger plays, games, and performances.

7.C. 3 Progresses in abilities to classify, compare and contrast objects, events and experiments.