



LESSON PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

TITLE: Learning about the forest- For special needs children

TIME REQUIRED: Two 90 min. sessions

AGE TARGET: 3-5 years

POSSIBLE PLACE TO DEVELOP THE ACTIVITY: First session indoors, second session outdoors.

LESSON OBJECTIVE (S):

- 1 Learning about small creatures of the forest and trees.
- 2 Sensorial stimulations.
- 3 Pattern recognition.

MATERIALS NEEDED TO PREPARE THE LESSON:

- 1) A plastic box
- 2) Soil to fill the box with
- 3) Green kitchen cloth, of spongy material, with different textures
- 4) Wooden twigs
- 5) White glue
- 6) Small creatures cut outs (laminated or scotch taped)
- 7) Scotch tape
- 8) Tree ID templates

LESSON OUTLINE

Creating the forest box

- 1) Take the plastic box and fill it, half way, with soil and some gravel.
- 2) Take the spongy green cloth and cut out some tree-tops. Make sure to have tree-tops of the three following shapes; Round, Triangular and Rectangular. Mix up the textures.
- 3) Glue the tree-tops to the wooden twigs in order to assemble the trees.
- 4) Cut out the small creatures and place them between two layers of clear scotch tape in order to waterproof them.

Using the forest box

- 1) First step is to hide the small creatures under the soil and encourage the kids to explore it with their hands. Whenever a creature is taken out of the box, say what it is and its role in the eco-system.
- 2) Step two, place the trees in the box. Have the kids touch the trees texture and say out loud how it feels. Have them organize the trees in groups of the same texture.
- 3) Step three, place the trees randomly in the box and have the kids point out the different shapes of the tree tops, organizing them in groups of the same shape.
- 4) Step four, Have the kids count the total number of trees and the number of trees of each shape and texture.
- 5) Step five, Organize the trees in recognisable patterns and ask the kids if they can spot it. Example: Three rows of trees organized like this; first round, second triangular, third wavy texture. The kids have to recognize that each row contains one round tree, one triangular tree and one with a wavy texture no matter the shape.

Working outdoors with Tree ID templates

- 1) Make an ID card for each type of tree in your area by gluing each picture of the different trees on a separate template.
- 2) Take kids to a park or forest and explain to them how to fill in the ID card.
- 3) Tell them to find the tree in the picture and fill out the ID card assigned.

FINAL EVALUATION MOMENT

Check if your students can name the different shapes, textures and trees correctly.

FOTO-DOCUMENTATION



Small Creatures Syllabus

- 1) Mole: It digs tunnels under the soil. Feeds on roots and small insects
- 2) Earth worm: It digs by eating the soil. Fertilizes soil.
- 3) Beetle: It takes care of other animal's litter by rolling it up in spheres
- 4) Lady bug: Lives both on ground and leaves. Eats aphids.
- 5) Millepede: Has many many legs. It cleans the forest from dead leaves.
- 6) Centipede: They move many fast, may be poisonous. Are main food for many other creatures like birds, lizards, mice.
- 7) Armadillidius: It is a crustacean. It rolls up in a ball to protect itself.
- 8) Grub: They live underground and become Moths!
- 9) Ant: They live in big colonies. They build city like tunnel systems and work hard to save food for the winter.
- 10) Mouse: It lives under trees and eats small insects as well as seeds and plants.
- 11) Lizard: Cold blooded reptile. It has to stay in the sun in order to make its body warmer. Eats small insects.



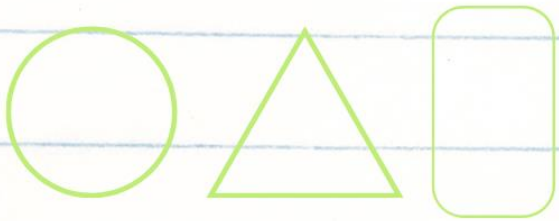
Use this card as a template to cut out your own cards!



Tree Identity Card

Investigate

Shape of the Corona



Color of the tree bark



The tree bark is?

Smooth Rough Furrowed

Estimate the tree's height _____ m

How old is the tree? _____ Years

Is there any fruit? Yes- No

Glue picture
of the tree here

