



OUTDOOR LEARNING SCHEME OF WORK

Free Sample

Outdoor learning, sorted. All year.

Take a look at our sample lessons from the Educate Outside Scheme of Work and see just how easy it is to bring learning outdoors.

Each lesson includes a clear overview, detailed teacher notes, and all the activities and printables you need to get started. Explore the samples below and discover how our Scheme of Work can transform outdoor learning in your school or setting.

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Ages 4 – 5: Term 1 Week 6



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TREASURES

Teacher's Guide

Ages 4 – 5: Term 1 Week 6
Communication

- Prep time: 0 minutes
- Activity length: 45 minutes
- Individual

Equipment: natural items, bags / baskets, magnifying glass, binoculars & large card or paper (optional)

CURRICULUM LINKS: literacy, science

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

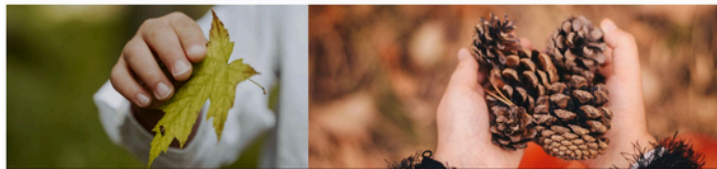
Welcome to the exciting world of nature exploration! "Nature's Treasures" is a fun and interactive activity that will get children discovering and sharing their found objects from the outdoor space. This activity develops a sense of curiosity and promotes communication skills, as children proudly present their natural treasures to their classmates.

BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Nature Exploration: Encourages children to observe and appreciate the beauty of the natural world.
- Communication Skills: Promotes speaking and listening skills as children share their found objects with their peers.
- Curiosity and Discovery: Develops a sense of curiosity and curiosity about nature's wonders.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

Supervise the children closely during the nature hunt to ensure their safety and well-being. Remind them not to pick up any hazardous objects, and check their collections before the Show and Tell session.



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NATURE'S TREASURES

Teacher's Guide

Ages 4 – 5: Term 1 Week 6
Communication

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Set the Stage: Choose a suitable outdoor area or garden space for the nature exploration. Ask the children if they have ever found anything special in nature. Talk about things they think we could find if we went looking. Briefly explain the activity to the children, emphasizing that they will be going on a nature hunt to find special objects to share with their friends.
- Nature Hunt: Divide the children into small groups, each accompanied by an adult or teacher. Provide each child with a small basket or bag to collect their nature treasures. Encourage them to explore the outdoor area and search for three interesting objects like leaves, flowers, stones, pinecones, or feathers.
- Discover and Observe: As the children explore, encourage them to use their senses to observe and appreciate the natural world around them. They can use magnifying glasses or binoculars to take a closer look at their finds and discuss what makes each object unique.
- Show and Tell: After the nature hunt, gather the children together in a designated Show and Tell area. One by one, invite each child to share their found object with the class or group. Encourage them to talk about what they discovered, why it's special, and any interesting features they noticed.
- Active Listening: As each child shares their nature treasure, promote active listening and engagement by encouraging their peers to ask questions or comment on the object. This creates an interactive and supportive environment for the "Show and Tell" session.
- Nature Collage (Optional): As an extension activity, consider creating a nature collage together as a class using the collected objects. Arrange the natural treasures on a large sheet of paper or cardboard, and discuss how each piece contributes to the collage.



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Ages 5 – 6: Term 3 Week 2



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NATURE STAMPS

Teacher's Guide

Ages 5 – 6: Term 3 Week 2
Creativity

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Begin with a Colorful Nature Hunt. Distribute colorful cards or paper (one per child). Use colors commonly found in your outdoor space.
- Task the children with finding items in nature that match the colors on their cards.
- Encourage discussions about the colors they discovered. Are there any colors we don't often see in nature?
- Explain that for the main activity they will be creating a piece of art using nature stamps.
- Demonstrate the activity by painting a selection one side of nature items before stamping it down onto your paper or canvas. Repeat this multiple times until your masterpiece is complete!
- Now, let children explore your outdoor space and choose different leaves and nature items.
- Provide an array of non-toxic paints and remind the children to paint the leaves and stamp them onto paper or canvas.
- Encourage creativity as children experiment with colors, patterns, and arrangements, creating unique nature-inspired artworks.
- Gather the children to share their colorful masterpieces.
- Discuss the colors, patterns, and shapes they created with their nature stamps.
- Allow each child to share what they enjoyed most about the activity.



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NATURE STAMPS

Teacher's Guide

Ages 5 – 6: Term 3 Week 2
Creativity

- Prep time: 5 minutes
- Activity length: 45 minutes
- Individual

Equipment: colored card squares, nature items, paint brushes, paint and paper / canvas.

CURRICULUM LINKS: Art

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

In this session, students will use nature stamps to create unique works of art. The activity brings together color, creativity, and nature. This outdoor lesson encourages independent expression, connecting children with nature through the joy of painting.

BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Develops independent decision-making in selecting and stamping with nature items.
- Enhances fine motor skills through the dipping and stamping process.
- Sparks creativity as children explore various color combinations and patterns.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- Use non-toxic, child-safe paint and ensure it is suitable for outdoor use.
- Remind children to handle nature items carefully to avoid harm.



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LEAF TREES ART



CURRICULUM LINKS: Art – using different media Science – classification

PREP: 5 minutes **LENGTH:** 50 minutes **NUMBERS:** Individual

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

The Leaf Trees activity inspires children to unleash their creativity by using leaves and natural materials to craft unique tree artworks. By gathering leaves of different shapes and sizes, they explore nature as a creative medium for art.



EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY US:

Tree outline

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY YOU:

- Pens (1 per child)
- Leaves
- Paint
- Glue
- Scissors
- Large paper with tree outline (optional)

BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Provides a platform for creative expression using natural materials.
- Develops observation skills by identifying different leaves.
- Promotes fine motor skills while handling leaves and applying glue.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- Supervise children closely during leaf collection, ensuring they only pick up safe and manageable materials.

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LEAF TREES ART



BEFORE THE LESSON

- Gather the pegs (1 per child). Print off the tree outlines (if possible print them on A3 paper). Prepare the paint & scissors. Prepare the large paper and draw a tree outline (optional extension activity).

STARTER:

- Give each child a peg and challenge them to find the largest leaf they can within one minute outside. Remind them to handle leaves gently and only pick up fallen ones.
- After one minute, gather the group and invite each child to proudly show their largest leaf. Discuss the different sizes and shapes they found. You could give a fun title like "Leaf Champion" to the child with the biggest leaf.
- Explain the next game: children pass their leaf around the circle using only the peg. Introduce a second leaf into the circle and see if they can keep both in motion. Can they avoid dropping the leaves or letting one catch the other?

MAIN ACTIVITY:

- Lead the children on a short nature walk to an area where they can safely collect leaves and other natural materials like twigs or small flowers. Encourage them to find leaves of different shapes, sizes, and colors. Remind them to choose safe and manageable materials.
- Return to a designated area with a flat surface for crafting and distribute glue, paint and tree outlines to the children. Explain how they can use the leaves and other materials like paint (optional) to create their tree picture on the pre-drawn tree outline. Encourage them to use their creativity and experiment with different leaf shapes and colors.
- Guide them on applying glue to the back of the leaves and gently sticking them onto the tree outline. They can use smaller leaves or cut pieces to fill in detailed areas.
- Allow the glue to dry completely before displaying their artwork and find a space to showcase the completed leaf tree pictures.
- If children finish early, they could contribute to a whole-class piece of art using the large paper and pre-drawn tree outline.

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LEAF TREES ART



Name: _____
Tree Outline

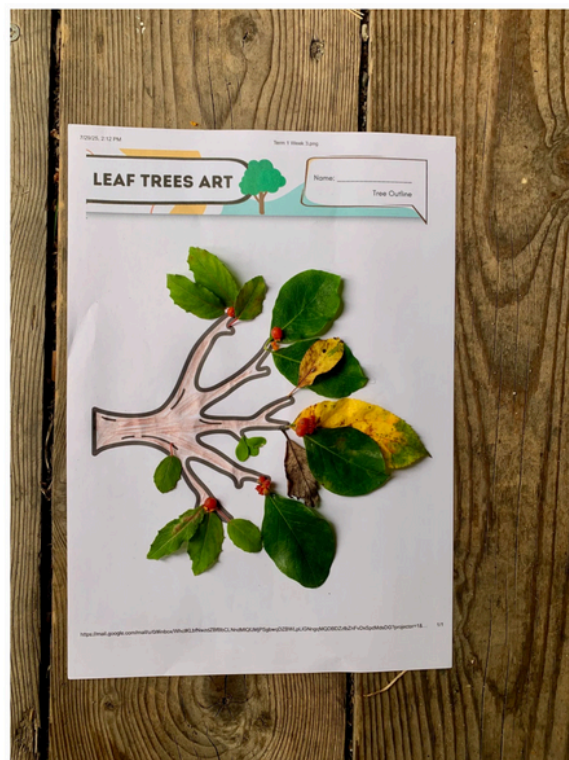


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LEAF TREES ART



Name: _____
Example



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DIY BIRD FEEDERS



Teacher's Guide
Ages 7 – 8: Term 2 Week 1
Reflection

CURRICULUM LINKS: Science: animals & habitats

PREP: 15 minutes **LENGTH:** 50 minutes **NUMBERS:** Groups of 4

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

In this outdoor lesson, students will create simple bird feeders using recycled materials. They will then place the feeders in designated areas and spend time observing the birds that come to visit. This activity combines hands-on creativity and nature observation, encouraging a deeper connection to the environment.

BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Observation Skills: Enhances attention to detail and patience as students watch and identify different birds.
- Reflection: Provides a calm and meditative experience, encouraging students to reflect on their observations and the importance of caring for wildlife.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- Ensure students wash their hands after handling materials like peanut butter and bird seed.
- Remind children to remain calm and quiet while observing to avoid disturbing wildlife.
- Clearly define observation areas and supervise use of materials to ensure safety.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY US:

- DIY bird feeder instructions
- Bird ID sheet (optional)

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY YOU:

- Pinecones or cardboard tube
- Peanut butter
- Bird seed
- String / yard

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DIY BIRD FEEDERS



Teacher's Guide
Ages 7 – 8: Term 2 Week 1
Reflection

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Prepare the items needed to make the bird feeders. You may need to ask parents to bring in kitchen roll tubes / pinecones. Download & print bird ID guides (optional).

STARTER:

- Gather children in a quiet outdoor spot.
- Ask them to close their eyes and listen carefully for any bird sounds.
- After 5 minutes, discuss what they heard. How many different bird sounds did they notice? Were there similarities or differences in the sounds?

MAIN ACTIVITY

- Explain that they will be making DIY bird feeders before observing to see which birds come to visit.
- Follow the instruction sheet to make the DIY bird feeders. This works best in groups of four to avoid creating too many feeders.
- Once complete, assign each group an area to hang their feeder. Get them to sit quietly in their groups nearby and observe the feeders.
- Encourage children to note down or verbally share observations: What types of birds visit? How do they behave around the feeder? Are there any patterns in their visits (time of day, frequency)?
- If appropriate, download our bird ID guides for the students to use during the observation.
- After observing for 15-20 minutes, gather children to reflect on their observations: Which birds did they see? What did they notice about the birds' behaviors? How did it feel to observe the birds up close?

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DIY BIRD FEEDERS



DIY Bird Feeder Instructions

1 MATERIALS

Collect empty toilet paper rolls or pine cones, peanut butter or vegetable shortening, bird seed, and string or yarn.

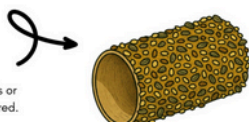


2 COAT

Spread peanut butter or shortening evenly on the outside of the toilet paper rolls or pine cones.

3 BIRD SEED

Roll the peanut butter/shortening coated rolls or pine cones in bird seed until completely covered.



4 STRING

Tie a piece of string or yarn around the top of each feeder and hang them in a suitable outdoor area for bird watching.

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WOODEN WIND CHIMES

CURRICULUM LINKS: Art & Design Science: materials History: different cultures

PREP: 10 minutes **LENGTH:** 50 minutes **NUMBERS:** Individual

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

In this outdoor lesson, students will use their skills to create their own stick wind chimes using natural materials. They will learn to select and prepare sticks, assemble their chimes with string, and paint them in rainbow colors. This activity develops creativity, independence, and fine motor skills as students design and construct their unique wind chimes.

BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Independence: Encourages independence as students take ownership of their project from start to finish.
- Motor Skills: Develops fine motor skills through tying, assembling, and painting.
- Enhances understanding of design principles and material properties.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- Use environmentally safe paint.
- Set clear boundaries for where students can explore to collect materials.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY US:

- History of wind chimes
- Instruction sheet (optional)

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY YOU:

- Sticks
- String
- Scissors
- Paint & brushes (optional)

WOODEN WIND CHIMES

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Print off the instruction sheets. Prepare the string, scissors, paint and brushes.

STARTER:

- Explain to the students that their first task is to explore the outdoor area and find the most interesting stick they can. This could be based on its shape, color, texture, or anything else that makes it unique.
- Give the students 5 minutes to search for their stick. Encourage them to think creatively about what makes a stick "interesting" and to explore different parts of the area.
- Once time is up, gather the group together. Each student will pair up and briefly present their chosen stick, explaining why they found it interesting. Repeat this with multiple pairs.

MAIN ACTIVITY

- Introduce the concept of wind chimes and how they can be made from natural materials. Explain that students will be creating their own wind chimes using sticks and string, then painting them in vibrant rainbow colors. Emphasize that this project requires careful selection of materials, creativity in assembly, and independence in decision-making.
- Share the history of wind chimes using our fact sheet.
- Each student should select one sturdy horizontal stick to serve as the base of their wind chime and 5-6 smaller sticks to hang vertically.
- Give students the opportunity to try to create the wind chimes independently. Show them some example pictures and share the instruction sheet if needed. Allow students to make mistakes and give them time to make improvements to their wind chimes.
- Once everyone has finished, gather the group to discuss the process. Ask students to share their design choices and what they learned about working with natural materials.

WOODEN WIND CHIMES

Instructions

Name: _____

DIY WIND CHIME

COLLECT THE STICKS

Gather one sturdy horizontal stick, 5-6 smaller sticks.



STRING

Cut 5-6 pieces of string to the desired length (20-30cm) for hanging the smaller sticks from the horizontal stick. Vary the length of each piece of string.

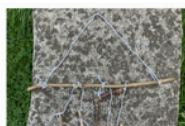
TIE THE CHIMES

Tie one end of each string to the end of a smaller stick, and then tie the other end to the horizontal stick, spacing them evenly.



HANGING THE STICK

Tie a longer piece of string to both ends of the horizontal stick to create a loop for hanging the wind chime.



PAINT & DISPLAY

Paint the sticks in rainbow colors or any design you like. Allow the paint to dry completely and find a spot to hang your chimes.



TEAM PHOTO CHALLENGE



Teacher's Guide
Ages 9 – 10: Term 1 Week 9
Communication

CURRICULUM LINKS: Misc

PREP: 5 minutes **LENGTH:** 50 minutes **NUMBERS:** Groups

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

This week students will work in teams to complete a photo scavenger hunt. Each team will receive a list of challenges, such as forming a shape with their bodies or finding items of different colors. They will document their achievements by taking photos. This activity promotes teamwork, communication, and creativity as students collaborate to complete each task.

BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Collaboration: Students work together to complete tasks, developing cooperative skills.
- Problem-solving: The activity encourages creative thinking as students figure out how to meet each challenge.
- Creative thinking: Teams must think outside the box to complete and photograph the tasks creatively.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- Remind students not to run when carrying devices.
- Ensure students are aware of boundaries and stay within the designated outdoor area.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY US:

- Photo challenge sheets

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY YOU:

- Camera devices
- Clipboards
- Pencils

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TEAM PHOTO CHALLENGE



Teacher's Guide
Ages 9 – 10: Term 1 Week 9
Communication

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Prepare the devices. Print the challenge sheets (one per team).

STARTER:

- Have teams of 4 or 5 students stand in a small circle.
- Call out different shapes (e.g., triangle, square), and have each team work together to form these shapes using their bodies within 30 seconds.
- This quick activity gets students thinking about spatial awareness and how to communicate effectively in their teams, preparing them for the scavenger hunt.

MAIN ACTIVITY

- Introduce the activity by explaining that the students will be going on a photo scavenger hunt. Their goal is to work together as a team to complete various tasks, which they will document with photos. Emphasize that the focus is on teamwork and creative problem-solving.
- Divide students into small teams of 3 to 4. Provide each team with the list of photo challenges.
- Each team must work together to complete each challenge and document it with a photo.
- Ensure that one student in each team is responsible for taking the photo, and they can rotate this role if desired. Explain that the focus is on creativity, teamwork, and completing the challenges, not just the quality of the photo.
- Let the students know where they can go and how long they have to complete the scavenger hunt (e.g., 25-35 minutes).
- Once time is up, gather the students to review their photos. Discuss which challenges they found most fun or difficult, and how they worked together to complete the tasks.

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TEAM PHOTO CHALLENGE



Challenge Sheet

Team Name: _____

As a team, get a photo of the following and tick once complete:

<p>YOUR TEAM IN THE SHAPE OF A SQUARE</p>	<p>ALL OF YOUR TEAM MID JUMP.</p>	<p>EVERYBODY IN YOUR TEAM HOLDING A DIFFERENT COLORED LEAF.</p>
<p>CAPTURE A PHOTO OF YOUR TEAM FORMING THE SHAPE OF A TREE WITH YOUR BODIES.</p>	<p>PHOTOGRAPH EACH TEAM MEMBER HOLDING SOMETHING FROM NATURE THAT IS A DIFFERENT TEXTURE (E.G., SMOOTH ROCK, ROUGH BARK).</p>	<p>TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR TEAM IN FRONT OF SOMETHING NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL, LIKE A TREE OR FLOWER.</p>
<p>FIND SOMETHING TALLER THAN EACH TEAM MEMBER AND TAKE A GROUP PHOTO WITH IT.</p>	<p>TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR TEAM SPELLING OUT 'PHOTO CHALLENGE' USING NATURAL OBJECTS (E.G., STICKS OR STONES).</p>	<p>TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR TEAM AND AN INSECT.</p>

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GOD'S EYE WEAVING

Teacher's Guide
Ages 10 – 11: Term 3 Week 3
Creativity

CURRICULUM LINKS: Art & Design: pattern and form Math: symmetry

PREP: 10 minutes **LENGTH:** 50 minutes **NUMBERS:** Individual

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

In this outdoor art lesson, students will create traditional 'God's Eye' crafts by weaving colorful wool around two sticks. This mindful and hands-on activity supports creativity, fine motor skills, and independent problem-solving, while encouraging students to appreciate patterns and symmetry in a natural setting.



EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY US:



Instruction sheet

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY YOU:



Sticks



Colored wool



Scissors



Clipboards

BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Encourages focus and patience through repetitive weaving
- Promotes creativity in color and pattern choices
- Develops fine motor skills and coordination
- Builds resilience when managing tricky steps
- Allows personal ownership of design
- Increases confidence through working independently with simple tools

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- Remind students to choose smooth sticks without sharp splinters
- Remind students do not wave sticks around or poke others

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GOD'S EYE WEAVING

Teacher's Guide
Ages 10 – 11: Term 3 Week 3
Creativity

BEFORE THE LESSON:

- Test a few samples yourself to ensure you are familiar with the wrapping technique. Bring example finished pieces and possibly a photo reference for inspiration. Lay out scissors, extra wool, and optional clipboards or mats to work on.

STARTER:

- Each student goes off individually to find two straight sticks of similar length (around 20-30 cm). Once everyone has their sticks, gather the class in a circle and compare. Discuss: Which sticks are most similar in size and shape? Are any of them too bendy or too short? What makes a good pair for weaving?
- Explain that The God's Eye (or Ojo de Dios) is a traditional craft that originated with the Huichol and Tepehuan people of Mexico. It was created as a spiritual object, often used for protection or blessings. The center represents the eye of God watching over those who create or receive it, and new layers were sometimes added each year for a child's birthday.

MAIN ACTIVITY:

- **Prepare the Sticks:** Cross two sticks to form a plus sign. Use a small piece of wool to tie and wrap around the center tightly until secure.
- **Start Weaving:** Choose a wool color. Begin wrapping the wool over and around each stick in turn: over one, behind the next, and repeat in a circular pattern.
- **Change Colors (Optional):** Tie a new color to the end of the previous wool piece.
- **Tuck the knot at the back and continue weaving.**
- **Finish Off:** When the sticks are full or students are satisfied, tuck the end of the wool under the back weave or tie a knot.

PLENARY:

- Display and share their designs. Students can hang their God's Eye crafts from a tree or fence, or take them home.

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GOD'S EYE WEAVING

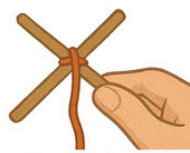
Instructions
Ages 10 – 11: Term 3 Week 3
Creativity

1



Make a Cross:
Cross two sticks to form a plus sign. Tie them tightly together in the middle using a short piece of wool.

2



Wrap the Center:
Wrap the wool around the center several times in an "X" shape to secure the sticks.

3



Start Weaving:
Begin wrapping the wool over and around each stick in turn: over the stick, around the back, and onto the next.

4



Tie a new color to the end of the old one. Tuck the knot behind the weave and continue weaving.

5



Keep Going:
Continue weaving in the same pattern, pushing the wool in toward the middle to keep it tight.

6



Finish Off:
When you're done, tie the end of the wool at the back or tuck it under the weave. Trim any loose ends.