



PENRITH

TREES FOR IMAGINATIVE PLAY

Ages: 0 to 2



Take the children to a place with natural resources and trees. This may be the playground or yard, or maybe it is a local park. Help the children to collect a range of natural resources. These may be sticks, pebbles, leaves, seed pods, rocks, bark, flowers, sand, etc. Use things that are found on the ground (don't remove objects from plants).

Let children explore the materials with all of their senses, touch them, smell them, listen to them, and maybe even taste them.



ACTIVITIES

Young children can be guided to complete the following activities:

- sort the materials in different ways - by shape, colour, size, sound, smell, texture and so on.
- draw in the dirt, sand or on the path using water, mud or etching with sticks.
- make patterns using different materials or natural loose parts.





PROVOCATIONS

- I wonder what we can find to play with today?
- I wonder what that feels like (rough, smooth, soft, spikey, hard)?
- I wonder what that smells like?
- I wonder if that makes a sound?
- I wonder if we can sort these (size, colour, shape)?
- I wonder from where these came from?
- I wonder who we might meet on our adventure?

POSSIBLE LINES OF DEVELOPMENT

- Plant patterns, shapes and names
- Colours in nature
- Sounds in nature
- Create sensory bottles using natural materials



Adapted from coolaustralia.org - sign up free for more Early Learning, Primary and Secondary curriculum resources about science, the environment and sustainability. A Cooling the City resource for Penrith City Council with One Tree Per Child.





PENRITH

TREES FOR IMAGINATIVE PLAY

Ages: 3 to 5



Take the children to a place with natural resources and trees. This may be the playground or yard, or maybe it is a local park. Help the children to collect a range of natural resources. These may be sticks, pebbles, leaves, seed pods, rocks, bark, flowers, sand, etc. Use things that are found on the ground (don't remove objects from plants).

Let children explore the materials with all of their senses, touch them, smell them, listen to them, and maybe even taste them.



ACTIVITIES

Use the natural materials the children have collected to create something. They could create a:

- natural collage
- pattern
- tiny elf house or village
- home for an animal or bird
- drawing in the sand, mud or dirt

They can create something big or small, out in the open for others to see or hidden for others to find only if they look very closely. The children can see if they are there next time you return.





PROVOCATIONS

- I wonder what we can find to play with today?
- I wonder what creative ways we can think of to use these materials?
- I wonder if the elves / animals will find what we have made for them?
- I wonder what the elves / animals might need in their home?
- I wonder who might come and see our creations?
- I wonder who they will think has made it?
- I wonder how long our creations will last?

POSSIBLE LINES OF DEVELOPMENT

- Take photos of your creations and create a book including children's interpretations of their creation
- Notice if the 'materials' available change throughout the year
- Investigate what wildlife lives there (what evidence can you find – nests, tracks, scat (poo); feathers)
- Investigate the needs of local animals in terms of habitat and shelter (for their houses)
- What do people need in order to live a happy / healthy life?

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