

KINDERGARTEN FALL NATURE WALK

Summary: Students observe the changes in our environment during the fall. They use their sense of touch, sight, hearing and smell to investigate their surroundings. Students discuss the sun and its warming energy, the wind and how it moves the leaves and other materials around us, and finally they sort leaves they find on the ground.

Intended Learning Outcome for Kindergarten:

Objective 1: Framing questions. Conducting investigations .Collecting data.

Objective 2: Developing social interaction skills with peers. Sharing ideas with peers. Connecting ideas with reasons.

Utah State Core Curriculum Tie:

Standard 2 Objective 1: Earth and Space Science

Demonstrate how wind moves non-living things.

Sort, group and classify earth materials as to hard, smooth, rough etc.

Standard 2 Objective 3: Earth and Space Science

Observe weather patterns that occur from season to season.

Preparation time: 15 min to go outside and find an environment with a lot of variety in fall leaves and materials

Lesson time: 30 min

Small group size: works best with one adult for every 5 children

Materials: - small Ziploc bags to place their objects in

Pre-lab discussion: Show students several leaves that were found earlier. Discuss their size, shape and texture. Tell the students they will also collect leaves outside and then describe them to their group.

Instructional Procedure: Take the students outside for this activity.

1. Group the students sitting down outside. Ask them to close their eyes for one minute and think of all the things they are hearing, smelling and feeling. After the minute, discuss all the different sounds, smells and sensations that occurred.
2. Ask them if they felt heat from the sun on their faces or bodies. Explain to them that the sun sends out heat energy that warms our body. Ask them if the amount of heat would feel any different in the other seasons.

3. Ask the students what season it is and what they would expect to see the plants, trees and animals doing in this season. For example, some plants and trees lose their leaves and others die; some animals hibernate or migrate.
4. Find an area with fallen leaves or leaves that are different on the trees. How many different leaves can they find? Remember grass and pine needles are leaves as well. Discuss how they are similar in size, color, texture etc. Have them locate: fat ones, skinny ones, wrinkled ones, dry ones, and ones chewed by insects, etc. They can collect one leaf of each type and put them into a bag.
5. Look at the trees and flowers and notice what is happening. Leaves are changing colors and falling off of some trees. Plants are dying or resting over the winter. Show them evergreens that will not lose their leaves. In winter, what will they see?
6. Have students identify three living and three non-living objects they can see and touch.
7. If the wind is blowing, have the students notice that wind can move things outside. Try and find three different non-living/once living objects that are blowing in the wind.
8. Sit down with your group and look at their leaves. Show students the veins in the leaves and discuss how the veins of leaves carry the food and water throughout the leaf. Have each student pick one or two of their leaves. Discuss how the leaves are the same and how they are different. Have them describe the texture of their leaves: rough, smooth, flat, wrinkled etc. Back in class students can make leaf rubbings of their leaves to produce a picture.