

Exploring trees

This activity focuses on trees in the nature reserve. Children will become familiar with the parts of a tree, the names of some trees, and seasonal changes. If possible, visit the nature reserve throughout the year so that children become aware of the annual cycle of a tree.

Resources

- Tree identification book
- Paper and wax crayons

Activity

Go on a tree trail stopping to explore the height and breadth of trees. How many children are needed to join hands around the tree trunk? Depending on the time of year explore the sticky buds or leaves. Look beneath the tree to find leaves, conkers, acorns and twigs. Find out what is growing beneath the dead leaves. Feel the bark and describe it.

Introduce children to the names of some common trees e.g. Horse Chestnut, Oak, Silver Birch. Children might use descriptive names such as conker or acorn tree. This is fine at this stage of development but provide the correct name as well. Talk about what animals might live in or under the tree.

Make bark rubbings, or collect bark, fallen leaves etc. to make a natural sculpture in the nature reserve.

Follow up

- Make a display of found materials and tree identification books and pictures/photographs of trees. Provide magnifying glasses.
- Leaf and bark collage.
- Read 'After the Storm' by Nick Butterworth.

Visit CVCG.ORG.UK for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

