

LESSON 2 – Creating a Love of Nature and Creating with Nature

“I love nature, I just don't want to get any of it on me.”

— Woody Allen

INTENDED PARTICIPANTS: Children aged 3-5 with a maximum of 5 children

INTRODUCTION /LEARNING OUTCOMES: At this age children are becoming more confident and able in themselves both cognitively and physically. They are learning right from wrong and learning to participate as part of a community and recognise they belong to a community beyond their family. For this lesson the focus will be on Learning Outcomes 1, 2 & 4. The lesson aims to expand their knowledge and respect for our natural world. Develop their compassion, corporation and resilience skills and further expand their confidence in their ability to learn.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- David Attenborough “It’s a Wonderful World video clip
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auSo1MyWf8g>
- Computer/Smart board for watching the video clip and displaying images
- Land Art Images – displayed on smart board or on laminated cards
- Local Park (filled with natural materials)
- Excursion Permission from parents
- Camera

LESSON ACTIVITIES:

- Watch “It’s a Wonderful World” by David Attenborough to ‘tune’ the children into nature.
- Have a short discussion about the video and nature in general (let the conversation flow naturally)
- After a few minutes hand out your chosen land art images to the children (ask them to look at them and then pass them on) or display them on the smart board. Discuss the land art images, ie “What do the children like/dislike about them”, “what materials has the artist used”
- Discuss the trip to the park (what they are expected to do)
- Journey to the chosen local park.
- As a group walk around the park collecting and discussing materials you find.
- Once the group is satisfied they have sufficient materials find a spot to create your land art pieces (this can be done as group or in pairs)
- Ask the children to look at all the pieces that have been created and briefly discuss them as a group (things they like, materials used)
- Photograph the artworks and return to the centre
- For a follow up activity it would be nice as a group to create a mural
 - Use the photos,

- Discuss the experience and include quotes from the children on the mural
- Ask the children to make drawings of the land art (or new ideas for land art)
- Hang in the classroom – possible title could be “It’s a Wonderful World”

ASSESSMENT/OBSERVATION:

- At this age there are no formal assessments, rather you will be observing the children to see if their play is age appropriate and if they were interested in the activity. For children attending school in the coming school year you are required to complete a school readiness assessment so consider the criteria in your observations. Your observations will come from the LO objectives, eg are they actively participating, are they developing confidence with the material, are they becoming interested in their natural environment do they appear to have developed more care and respect for nature. Observe if the children showed particular interest in an aspect of the lesson and incorporate those into future lessons. Also if you do complete the mural observe the children as they work, noting their social interaction with the other students, willingness to be involved etc.

REFLECTION/NOTES:

It is always wise to make notes on your lessons. The positives and negatives, what you would do differently (and how) and what worked well. Keep a photographic record and keep these notes for future reference.