

HELLO TREE

Stop among the trees and try to guess their age, name, and what they have seen, felt, or experienced

Goal: Go through familiar places with a different kind of focus. The children have the opportunity to greet the trees present in their surroundings and estimate how old they are and what they might have experienced.

How long: 10–20 minutes

Who: 5 to 8 or adults who like to play

Where: A place with trees or shrubs with plenty room to run

When: All year round

You need: Papers, pencils, pads for groups, colouring pencils, chalks



1. A WALK

Walk with the children through a familiar place with trees and stop at each tree or some at random. Greet the trees during these brief stops.

2. TREE LIFE

In addition to greeting the trees the children can ask: How old is this tree? Why do we think that? What did the tree see, feel, experience during its life? What might its name be? Children can talk about their guesses and they can also draw or write them down. It depends on how much time you have and the interests and abilities of the children.

3. THE MAP

Next, after the walk, stop among the trees and have the children draw, individually or together in groups, a simple map on paper or with chalk on a pavement and include the trees they stopped at. They should add the trees' age, their name for the trees, some interesting facts about the tree's life or whatever else they have "discovered".

TIP: If you have time, the desire and some natural materials, you can also create a model of the place and include the trees.

3. LOOKING BACK

Finally, look at the newly created map or maps and talk about them. What was it like to draw the map? How many trees are there? Which one do you think is the oldest and why? Which one is probably the youngest and why? What have the trees experienced? What were the difficulties with drawing the map? What could fit into the map? What else do you want to know about trees?

EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITY'S GOAL (EVIDENCE OF LEARNING)

- The children walked among the trees and greeted them
- The children had the opportunity to imagine the age, name and experiences of the trees
- The children recorded the trees and their "stories" on the map