

Sensory Trail EYFS

Session Overview and Learning Objectives

Session Summary

- This session is suitable for one class of up to 30 children
- It lasts 50 minutes
- Divide the class into 2 groups of 15 students. Half to follow clockwise route, the other half to follow anticlockwise
- Recommended ratio – 4 adults:30 children

This session allows the children to explore the woodland using all their senses, with activities designed to focus attention and to connect with nature. The children will look for natural treasures, listen to the sounds of the forest, and make magic with smelly potions.

We can provide the relevant equipment for each activity.

This session follows a circular route through the woods, following **posts marked with a red band**.

Remember to ensure the right walk group leader has the medication for the children in their group.

Session Outline

The walk takes around 15 minutes without stopping for activities; these are our suggested activities for the 50 minute session.

	<i>Travelling clockwise</i>	
Time	Location	Activity
10 mins	Centre	Go Find It
5 mins	S4	Listening circle
15 mins	S5	Smelly potions
15 mins	S6	Blindfold trail/ sticky strips
5 mins	Centre	Plenary

	<i>Travelling anticlockwise</i>	
Time	Location	Activity
10 mins	Centre	Go Find It
15 mins	S6	Blindfold trail/ sticky strips
15 mins	S5	Smelly potions
5 mins	S4	Listening circle
5 mins	Centre	Plenary

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives	Expected Learning Outcomes
<p>Go Find It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To engage with natural surroundings and objects along the walk ● Connect literacy with the outdoors and use adjectives in a physical context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All will observe, explore and engage with the woodland habitat ● Some will successfully match the given word to an object in the woods ● A few will understand that the habitat they are exploring is made up of many different textures and colours because of the variety of life and the season
<p>Listening Circle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on sense of hearing ● Identify the types of natural and non-natural sounds ● Experience a moment of calm and stillness outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All will experience the natural sounds of the woods whilst sitting quietly ● Some will be able to recognise and count the different sounds ● A few will be able to reflect on the sounds they hear and the sources
<p>Smelly Potions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on sense of smell ● Explore and collect some natural 'smells' found in the woods ● Combine their natural 'smelly' items to create a smelly potion ● Consider why plants have different smells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All will have the opportunity to explore the woodland to gather some natural 'smelly' materials ● Some will be able to explain what they have put in their potion and what it can be used for ● A few will be able to discuss why some plants have developed strong smells
<p>Blindfold trail (optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on sense of touch ● Understand that minibeasts and nocturnal animals have different dominant senses to humans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All will use their senses in an unusual way, especially touch. ● Some will gain insight into the sensory life of minibeasts and nocturnal animals ● A few will feel an enhanced connection to nature
<p>Sticky Strips (optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect natural materials from the nature reserve on the sticky strip to take home. ● Themes can vary from colour, texture, describing words etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All will collect a range of materials to add to their sticky strip. ● Some will apply what they have learnt from their session when collecting different items. ● A few will feel an enhanced connection to nature.
<p>Plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reflect on the different activities that they have experienced ● Share some of the key facts and knowledge that they have learnt ● Solidify memories of the experience by recapping them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All will have experienced the woodland habitat ● Some will be able to name all five senses and describe how they help us to experience the world around ourselves ● A few will be able to give examples of animals that rely on different senses to navigate through the woodland

EYFS Statutory Framework

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

These are the prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design