

Outdoor Learning Experience (6 years old)

Learning Experience: How Big is the Trunk?	Shared by: Elsie Chua
Environment: Neighbourhood Garden	Estimated time: 30 minutes
Children's prior knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children has prior knowledge of simple measurements e.g., length, width and depth.• Children know the parts of a tree.	
What children will experience (NEL Learning Areas): <p>Language and Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will respond appropriately to questions with gestures, expression or word/phrases. <p>Numeracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will discover ways to measure a tree trunk. <p>Discovery of the World:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will observe and compare the different sizes of trees trunks in the neighbourhood garden. <p>Social Emotional Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will learn to work cooperatively in pairs or threes when they help each other to measure the tree trunk.	Suitable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 years old
What you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• raffia string (1 roll)• tissue boxes (20)• masking tape (1 roll)	Benefit-Risk Assessment: <u>Benefit:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides opportunities for children's development of learning dispositions such as: perseverance and inventiveness.• Provides opportunities for children to work cooperatively to complete a task.

Risk:

- Uneven surfaces
- Hazards along the pathways/immediate environment e.g. sharp objects, insect bites, wet weather

Management:

- Check the ground to be clear of debris or hazardous materials
- Scan the venue to ensure it is free from potential hazards such as sharp objects, pot holes, broken tiles or insects
- Set limits/boundary for children to explore
- Ensure teachers have sight of the children at all times

How to make it happen:

Introduction (10 mins)

1. Teacher reads a book entitled “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein.
2. Children discuss what a tree could provide (Possible answers: shade, clean air, fruits, etc.)

Activity (30 mins)

3. The children move out to the outdoor space for the activity.
4. Children take a walk to the nearby neighbourhood park.
5. In pairs or threes, children select a tree they would like to investigate.
6. Inform children they will be measuring the size of the tree trunk using the raffia strings and tissue boxes.
7. Ask children to predict the number of tissue boxes that will be used to measure the trunk of the tree they have selected.
8. Each pair or group is provided a piece of raffia string and tissue boxes to measure the size of the tree trunk they have chosen.
9. In pairs, they lay the raffia string on the floor against tissue boxes.
10. The groups of children share and compare their findings.

Closure (10 mins)

Discussion:

- Which tree has the biggest tree trunk? How do you know?
- What else can they use to measure the size of the tree trunk?
- Was the finding surprising to you? Why or why not?