



Nature Memory Game

Come to know the leaves and other natural beings and objects of your local area while developing tactile and other sensory skills.

Materials: Assortment of leaves from outside.

Time required: 15-20 minutes

This activity works well with one child and is also a great activity for group gatherings, including birthday parties. You can do it in all seasons (depending on leaf availability).

Steps:

1. Collect an assortment of 10-20 leaves of different shapes, sizes and textures.
2. Spread the leaves in a small area so they are not overlapping.
3. Ask your child to close their eyes. Place one leaf in their hands and invite them to feel its size, texture, edges, stem and smell.
4. Ask your child to hand the leaf back to you. Place it among all the leaves.
5. Invite your child to open their eyes and guess which leaf was the one they held. Allow them to take time to feel and smell various leaves, as needed.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 multiple times.
7. Switch roles with your child and see how you do playing the game.

How many leaves did each person identify correctly? Which ones were easy to guess and why? Which textures were favourites? Which leaf scents were the most appealing?

Tip: You can do this activity with flowers, pebbles, sticks, shells or a combination of these.

Let the fun continue! Take this activity one step further by trying to memorize trees.

Steps:

1. Go outside and designate a starting point (find a flat surface without tripping hazards).
2. Blind fold your child.
3. Gently guide them to a tree. Invite them to feel the tree bark. Ask them: How big is the tree? (measure by wrapping hands/arms around tree). Can you feel any branches, leaves, other textures? Is there sap?
4. Lead them back to the starting point, remove the blindfold, and invite them to find their tree based on what they remember about it; they may wish to hug it when they find it!



Photo credit: Mya Van Woudenberg