

Wild Writing

☆ KEY FOCUS
Literacy

What you need:

- ▶ Paper with the sentence starter on
- ▶ Pencils
- ▶ Containers for collecting

Where Can I Play:
Outdoors

Let's Play



Take the children for a walk, preferably in a wooded area with a clearing. If this is not possible, close to a tree. This activity could also be done at a beach.

Whilst walking point out any interesting things to the children. These will change depending on the season. After a while find a place to sit or lie down. Ask the children to close their eyes and listen carefully. What can they hear? Ask them how being in the woods makes them feel.

Explain to the children you are going to be writing a class poem using all their sentences. Give them a sentence starter; In the woods I feel... ask each child to choose a word and add it on to the sentence. Encourage the children to think of synonyms if they come up with the same words.

Ask the children to collect some natural objects to decorate their paper.
Collate the phrases into a class poem and read it out with the children.



Top Tips



- Record what each child says in case they forget.
- Model to the children explaining how the forest makes you feel.
- Children could create a happy list.

Questions



- What can you hear?
- Why is it important to be very still?
- Is there anything else which makes you feel like this?



Why is this important?

Children celebrate their achievements with the class poem, having all contributed. Spending time in a forest has been shown to have a positive impact on mental health. The children may be interested in the Japanese word for this "Shinrin Yoku", which means forest bathing.

Prime Areas of Learning

- C&L** Encourage the children to stay very quiet and listen.
- PSE** Explain to the children if they are feeling a little overwhelmed, going for a walk in the forest can make them feel better. Teach them some other strategies which they might use. (There are some of these in the Active Start pack.)
- PD** Walking in the forest encountering different environments enhances children's locomotion skills and touching helps develop sensory processing.

Specific Areas of Learning

- EA&D** Children can choose how to decorate their sentences to contribute to the class poem.
- UtW** Any rubbish seen in the forest can contribute to a discussion about how we need to look after the environment.

In the woods I feel...

Vocabulary

Trunk, branch, calm, amazed

Story Links

What Do You See When You Look at a tree?
By Emma Carlisle