



Pre-K Lesson: Senses Nature Walk

Description: Help your child to understand their 5 senses by discovering what's in nature to see, feel, hear, and smell.

Theme: The Five Senses

Materials Needed:

- Clipboard (or hard surface) and crayons
- Scavenger hunt booklet
- Mystery bags (paper bags with nature items inside)

Set up:

- Mystery bags - gather some nature items (dried leaves, pinecone, stick, rock, grass, flower, etc.) and small paper bags. Fill bags with one nature item each.
- Color scavenger hunt - print out the scavenger hunt book or make your own! Include colors of things that you would find outside your home (gray - street, brown - tree trunks, green - grass, etc.)

Lesson:

Get them thinking

- Ask - when you go somewhere new, how do you explore where you are? When you get a new toy, how do you learn how to use it?
- We use our five senses to explore the world around us! What are the five senses?
- What do we use to see? Hear? Smell? Taste? Feel?
- Today we're going to use our senses to learn about nature. How do you think we'll use our senses in nature?

Raccoon Touch Game

- Raccoons use their hands like humans do. They don't have very good eyesight, so they use their sense of touch to find food and move around.

- We're going to pretend that we are raccoons and use our sense of touch to try and figure out what is in these paper bags.
- We're going to pass around the bags so that everyone gets to feel it, then we'll guess what is inside.

Color Scavenger Hunt

- Now it's time to go outside! Tell children they will need to use their sense of sight to find all the colors in nature. Take the color scavenger hunt book outside with you to try and find things of each color. You can make tally marks to count how many of each color you find.
- While outside, find opportunities for your child to use their sense of hearing, touch, and smell. Have them feel the rough tree bark, listen to birds or cars, and smell wet grass or dirt.

Reflection

- Ask: How did you use your sense outside? What did you see, hear, touch, and smell? How many senses do we have?
- Have your child draw their favorite thing from the hike.

Extensions

- Ask your child how they think animals use their senses.
- Make a scavenger hunt for all senses with things children would hear, touch, and smell around your home.
- Talk about taste. This is a good opportunity to discuss how it isn't a good idea to eat things you find outside unless you are sure it is safe and an adult is with you. If you want to include taste on your walk, bring a snack along.
- Have your child make their own senses scavenger hunt - it could even be done indoors!