

Nature Extensions and Outdoor Connections for Individual Lessons In Unit 4

Week 1

Discovery: Washing Stains

- Use old socks or shirts to allow the children to create stains on their clothing outside.
- Encourage the children to experiment making stains of various colors such as dandelions (yellow), clovers (green), mud (brown), etc.
- After the children have each had the opportunity to create their own nature stains allow them to wash the stains following the lesson plan (*Washing Stains*)
- Connect to Outdoor Learning lesson plan for week 1: Colors of Nature – Natural Dyes

Writing & Drawing: Classroom Maps

- Encourage the children to make a map of their playground.
- Once the children have had the opportunity to create their playground map - allow them to share their maps with peers or invite them to use the map outside to further their journey

Blocks: Building a Store

- Add natural items into the block area that could be used as currency or building tools.

Puzzles & Manipulatives: Color Squares

- Go on a walk with your children and encourage them to identify the colors they spot on the way.
- Bring the color squares outside on a color hunt (paint sample cards would also work for this activity)
- Allow the children to search for at least one item that matches the color on their color square.

Week 2

Art Studio: Mosaics

- Provide the children with a variety of seeds that contain different shapes, colors and textures.
- Encourage the children to design their own mosaic art creation using seeds.
- The children could use glue and paper or clay to create their work of art.
- This masterpiece could also use small rocks, little sticks, crushed leaves, rice and much more

Art Studio: Brave Capes

- After the children make their capes encourage them to try them outside.
- Bring the children on a “Brave Cape” walk outside or around the community.

Blocks: Building a Town/City

- Have the children use their imaginations to create an animal town/city using natural materials.
- The children could make their animal city in the block area or in a safe location outside.

Writing & Drawing: Classroom Color Search

- Bring the color search outside on the playground or in the woods.
- Have the children draw about their favorite color they found on their color hunt.

Discovery: Color Mixing

- Allow the children to collect leaves, flowers, berries and other items of color.
- Encourage the children to squeeze or swish the various items in their hands to see if the color will show on their hands (For example, when a child smooshes a red berry the juice will appear on their hands)
- After have the children use the items they collected to create marks or pressings on their paper or fabric.
- Connect to Outdoor Learning lesson plan Week 1: Colors of Nature – Natural Dyes and Week 5: Signs of Spring – Nature’s Color Palette

Small Groups: Clay Towns

- During this activity allow the children to use natural items to enhance their cave.

Week 3

Art Studio: Painting The Lion’s Cave

- Using large boxes outside, allow the children to paint inside the box as if it was a cave.
- If your school has a limited amount of large boxes tape one piece of paper to the inside of the box and have the children take turns creating their cave painting.

Dramatic Play: The Lion’s Cave

- Create a cave by placing a blanket over at least two sides of a small table.

Art Studio: Tinting and Shading

- On a sunny day place a large piece of paper on the ground outside.
- Allow the children to use the white paper to explore the shadows that are cast onto the paper.
- Have the children trace the shadows by drawing lines around the dark marks on the paper.
- Once the shadows have been traced have the children work together to color in their shadows.

- The children could use watercolor, paint, crayons, mud and much more.

Art Studio: Tinting and Shadow

- Tape a leaf or small tree bow onto the table and place a black sheet of paper over the natural item selected.
- Have the children use white chalk or a white crayon to create a nature shadow rubbing.
- This activity can also be done by placing the leaf on top of the black paper and allowing the children to use a spray bottle with watered down white paint in it. The children would spray around the natural item; once the item is removed a shadow will appear on their paper.

Small Groups: Painting Clay Towns/City

- Rather than using store bought paint use mud to paint the clay towns/cities. The children can help create the mud by using dirt, food coloring and a splash of dish soap.

Small Groups: Color Matching Game

- Bring paint chip cards outside for the children to explore and find various colors.

Small Groups: Making Groups with Blocks

- Rather than using blocks to create groups the children could use shells, beans, sea glass or other natural items that can vary in characteristics

Week 4

Art Studio: Self Portraits

- The children glue sticks, rocks and other natural materials to make a self-portrait on a piece of paper.
- Using clay or model magic is another way the children could create their self-portrait.

Blocks: Building a Cave

- Add a variety of different size socks in the block area for the children to create caves.

Discovery: Shaving Cream

- The children can use sticks as a writing tool to create letters in the shaving cream.
- Line the sensory table with shaving cream then allow the children to use the shaving cream as glue to stack rocks, sticks, shells and other items on top of each other.

Small Groups: Partner Portraits

- This activity can be done the same way as the children's self-portraits (Art Studio: Self Portraits for more details)