

Sensory Activities Learnlink - Generic

About the Activity

In this unit children are able to gain first-hand experience of the natural world through their senses. Concepts such as camouflage, changes in population numbers and seed germination are investigated through interactive sensory activities in different habitats. Investigative work focuses on: comparison of different colours, smells and textures found in different habitats, investigating which colours are appropriate for camouflage in different habitats, observing interactively the elements required for seed germination and growth and observing the changes in population numbers with changes in prey and predator numbers.

Activity Aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Introduce the senses, habitats and investigation skills and the necessary equipment.
- Allow each participant to collect, record and analyse data.
- Ensure participants work together supporting and encouraging each other.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss what they have accomplished.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Recognised and observed that different habitats are comprised of different colours, textures and smells.
- Observed that seeds require different conditions for germination and growth.
- Investigated that different colours are better for camouflage than others.
- Understood the importance of safety, risk, risk assessment, hazards and rules.
- Demonstrated the ability to listen to, understand and act on instructions received.
- Understood the importance of teamwork.
- Consolidated and then improved abilities such as fieldwork skills through performance.
- Contributed to a post activity review led by the instructor identifying what they did well and then suggested ways to improve.

Progression Opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Identify two different habitats and explain how and why there are differences in colour, smell and texture between them.
- Be able to recognise that not all species are found in the same habitats and understand the reasons for this.
- Recognise how and why animal populations change over time.
- Take the initiative in evaluating their performance and that of the group.
- Be able to assess risks and understand how these may be controlled.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Interpersonal Communication
- Teamwork
- ID and investigative skills

Associated Vocabulary:

Words relevant to safety e.g. boundaries, hazards, risk assessment, rules.

Words relevant to the activity e.g. habitat, adaptation, senses, organism, survival problems, life cycle, textures, germination, camouflage, evolution.

Words relevant to teamwork e.g. achievement, decision making, discussion, encouragement, instruction, listening, opinion, participation, responsibility.