



Colour collecting

This activity will encourage learners to explore their outdoor space using colours, thinking about why they might find different colours and shades around their site. Children and young people will also learn how to respect nature, only taking what they need and encouraging them to nurture the world around them.

Learners will explore their outdoor space with a piece of double-sided tape, collecting as many different colours as they can. It is important to remind children to only take a small sample of the colour, so as not to harm plants in the space. This activity will encourage children and young people to observe the differences in bright and dark colours, and how other living things interact with these colours.

Teaching time

15–20 minutes

Learning outcomes

- Make close observations of nature with reference to colours and textures noticing similarities and differences
- Notice and interpret interactions between living things and their environment
- Understand that nature is valuable and needs to be looked after and respected

Step by step

Before starting the activity, ask the children to form a circle and try to guess how many colours they might find in their outdoor space, and what colours they might find. What colours are they familiar with already? Are there certain colours they see lots of?

Give each learner a sheet of paper with a strip of double-sided sticky tape attached. Take learners around the outdoor space, asking them to collect as many different colours as they can on the tape.

Prompt learners to think like a living thing (for example a bee, butterfly, bird). 'Which colour might attract this animal? What could you change in your outdoor space to make it more attractive to this animal?'

Discuss why different colours exist in nature. Use 'I wonder' statements to prompt discussions. For example, 'I wonder where we found the most green'; 'I wonder if there were any colours we didn't find?'; 'I wonder what colours we would find in a different seasons'.

Reflection

Were all the bright colours you found in the same space, or spread out? Was there anywhere where you couldn't find any different colours? What could we do to change that?

Green Skills



Suitable for

Early Years
Key Stage 1

Location

Outdoors

Season

Spring
Summer
Autum
Winter

What you'll need

Plain sheets of paper
Double sided tape (or masking tape doubled over, to avoid plastic)

Key vocabulary

Colour
Shade
Collect
Natural

Support and extension opportunities

Learners could create a picture of something they found outside using the colours they collected – or they could create a mural or display using all the colours they found collectively.

The group might find litter and collect it on their sheet. Ask them to compare the textures and colours of the litter to the natural things. Are they different, and why? Does anything let you know this is not natural or natural?

If lots of litter is found outside, this could encourage a discussion about how to improve this issue – what could we do differently? Can we recycle it or turn it into something new?



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