

EXPLORE OUTDOOR SPACES THROUGH YOUR SENSES



AGE:
UPPER
PRIMARY

Are your children noticing that bumblebees sound different to honeybees, grass smells different to a hedgerow and trunks of trees feel different? Head outside and explore senses through the following activities:

WHAT ARE OUR 'SENSES'?

Our five senses allow us to explore and understand the world around us. We can:

- Smell (with our nose)
- Hear (with our ears)
- Taste (with our tongue)
- See (with our eyes)
- Touch (with our hands and feet)



EXPLORE YOUR SENSES

Take your children to the centre of an outdoor space and ask them to sit back to back with a partner/yourself and close their eyes. Tell them that for the next two minutes they will sit in silence and notice all the things they can hear, smell and even taste (pinch nose and open mouth). Share what they sensed, what may have created the sound, smell or taste and why this happened.



FIND TEXTURES

Explore your outdoor space through touch. You could go to a grassy area, a hedgerow and a planted area for example, and collect all the natural objects (e.g. leaves, twigs, flowers, stones etc.) that have different textures, patterns and smells.



MAKE PATTERNS

Can your children draw the textures they feel? How about the ones that they can't touch (the hair of a bumblebee, the scales of a butterfly wing, the prickles on a thistle). What patterns can they make?



NAME TOUCH

How many descriptive words (adjectives) can your children come up with to represent the different textures they can see in nature and/or from their found objects. Ask them to feel different surfaces and then get creative with different words (volcanic, groovy, silky- smooth etc.).



CREATE A TEXTURE BOARD

Provide your children with a map of your outdoor area (ideally stuck to a rigid board). Stick all of the items you have collected, the marks you have made and words you have used to describe the textures to the map where they were found. You could then consider the importance of these textures (e.g. the hairs on bumblebees help them to warm up and collect pollen etc.) and/or why ridges on bark run sideways and not up/down?

Next steps...Children can build on their sensory explorations through visual observations of plants and pollinators in the X-Polli:Nation project. Check out the outdoor (and indoor) resources to develop scientific enquiry skills.



SENSE

Sensory Explorations of Nature
in School Environments

<https://www.SenseScience.org>