



Activity: Nature mobile

Objective: To give children the opportunity to work as a team, to collaborate their ideas and knowledge of techniques for constructing the mobile and from this, gain team-working, social and problem-solving skills.

Learning Outcomes Addressed: (AusVELS)

Creating and making is a standard of the AusVELS Curriculum and this component is what is addressed from participating in this activity. This standard focuses on the ideas, skills, techniques, processes and presentations. These include engagement in concepts, the way students explore ideas and understandings through making, interpreting, creating and presenting. Students will work on their team work skills, application of arts elements and the principles and conventions of art (VCAA, 2013).

Size of group: a group of about 8 children

Duration: 60 minutes

Resources required:

- A few small fallen branch or sticks-crossed and tied together
- Natural objects including leaves, pinecones, stones etc.
- Yarn or colourful string
- Scissors
- Tape or glue

Steps:

1. Prior to this activity, as a homework task, ask children to go out on nature walks around their neighbourhoods and in parks to collect some natural items in order to be able to participate in the activity.
2. Each group's collection should include two small tree branches or sticks used as the base.

3. Have the children use string or yarn to tie the two branches together to form the shape of an X. Also tell them to make a large loop of string or yarn at the point where the branches cross, to serve as a hanger for the mobile.
4. Once the base is assembled, tell children they can begin with constructing the mobile using the natural items collected.
5. Assist children to an extent, while they assemble their mobiles.
6. Once complete, have a discussion with children about their work and the process they took.
7. Get some feedback on what children thought of the activity.
8. Finally, display the completed mobiles around the classroom.

Assessment:

- Assess that children have completed the homework task prior to participating in the activity.
- Take notes on how the children go about putting the mobile together in other words, what the children are doing and how they are doing it.
- Assess the way children share techniques with one another, about tying the items to the mobile.
- Have a discussion with the students about how they created their work = process.
- Finally, ask children for some feedback, on what they thought of the task.

****Remember**:** It is about the process of the task, not about the product.