

Woods



Overview

Come wander into the Woods where nature and imagination collide. Both children and adults are invited to stretch all of their senses, direct their own play journey and take risks. Discover places to move over, under, around and through in the Woods. Reach new heights by climbing up into the canopy and creating cozy nooks to explore.

Central to the Woods is the iconic Playful Tree. The canopy of the Playful Tree will grow and change with artwork inspired and created by artists and children. What new surprises will you notice in the Woods?



Experiences and Skills Practiced in Woods

Children may:

- Strengthen gross motor muscles
- Increase self-efficacy, the belief in one's abilities
- Engage in appropriate risk taking while respecting oneself, others and the environment
- Share space and materials with peers
- Explore concepts of light and dark
- Communicate experiences and play journeys with others
- Enhance innovation, imagination and creative thinking
- Develop self-regulation skills through pretend play

“You will find something more in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters.”

- St. Bernard

Discussion Questions While Playing in Woods

- Where did you take a risk today?
- What did you discover?
- How do you like to play outside?
- How is the Playful Tree similar and different to a tree that you would encounter outside?



Connection to Washington State Standards

Early Learning and Development Benchmarks

Physical Well-Being, Health and Motor Development

- Goals: 1-3

Social and Emotional Development

- Goals: 11-18, 21-25

Approaches Toward Learning

- Goals: 27-31

Cognitive and General Knowledge

- Goals: 32-35, 38-43, 47, 56-57

Language, Communication and Literacy

- Goals: 58-59, 61-62, 65

EALRs and Performance Expectations

Reading

- 1.3

Communication

- 1.1, 2.2

Math

- K.1, K.3, K.4, 1.4

Science

- K-1 INQ, K-1 APP, K-1 PS1

Arts

- 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.2

Related Classroom Activity *Building with Natural Materials*

Materials:

- Twigs and branches
- Wood scraps (ask a hardware store for scrap lumber and sand down the edges)
- Leaves
- Rocks
- Moss
- Camera (for documentation)
- Stone, Wood, and Hand to Earth by Andy Goldsworthy

Vocabulary:

- **Balance** - an equal distribution of weight, or force.

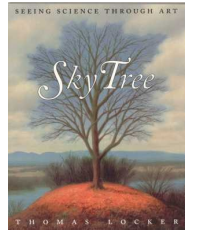
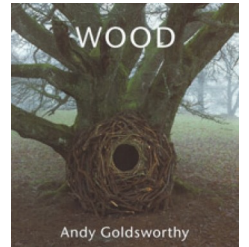
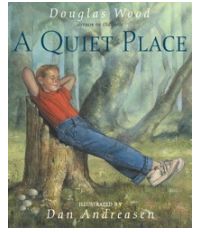
Activity:

- Collect a variety of natural materials listed above with your children. Go for walks around your neighborhood, a local park, wooded area, or a hardware store for scrap lumber.
- Introduce nature artist Andy Goldsworthy. Share some images of his sculptures and encourage children to comment on the details that they notice in his art. Goldsworthy is inspired by nature and leaves. He works outside to create his art and then leaves his completed sculptures behind. He takes pictures to remember his creations, and sometimes, even to watch how they change over time.
- Using the materials that you have collected, invite children to create Goldsworthy inspired sculptures. Natural materials, with their unique textures and sizes, challenge children to wrestle with the balance and stability of their structures.
- Document both the process and completed sculptures children create by taking pictures and capturing quotes as they work.
- Put materials away in baskets, trays and bowls for future creating.
- Share pictures with the entire group and discuss similarities and differences and the challenges they faced in using natural building materials.
- Share photos of children's creations with them and ask for the story behind the picture.



Resources for Children

- Cherry, Lynne. 1990. *The Great Kapok Tree*. Orlando: Harcourt Children's Books.
- Christiansen, Candace & Thomas Locker. 1995. *Sky Tree: Seeing Science through Art*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Frost, Robert. 2001. *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*. New York: Dutton Juvenile.
- Goldsworthy, Andy. 1994. *Stone*. New York: Henry A. Abrams.
- Goldsworthy, Andy. 1996. *Wood*. New York: Henry A. Abrams.
- Goldsworthy, Andy. 2004. *Hand to Earth*. New York: Henry A. Abrams.
- Silverstein, Shel. 1964. *The Giving Tree*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Ward, Helen. 2001. *The Tin Forest*. New York: Dutton Children's Books.
- Wood, Douglas. 2002. *A Quiet Place*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.



Resources for Adults

- Christopher, Todd. 2010. *The Green Hour*. Boston: Trumpeter Books.
- Louv, Richard. 2008. *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.
- Ward, Jennifer. 2008. *I Love Dirt!: 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature*. Boston: Trumpeter Books.

Discussion Questions During Lesson

- I notice you've used a variety of materials in your design. Tell me more about your structure.
- I wonder if you can make your structure even taller.
- What would happen if you put one more rock or piece of wood on top?
- How is your structure staying balanced?



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