

Circle Time Plan: Environmental Awareness

Resources

Talking object (an object to pass around the circle that signifies whose turn it is to talk and who the children should all be listening to).

Circle Time Rules

- Show people you are listening to them by looking at them when they are speaking.
- Only speak when you are holding the talking object.
- Treat all those who are a part of the circle with kindness and respect.



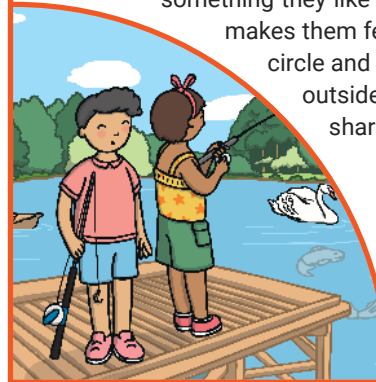
1. What Can We See, Hear, Smell and Touch?

Sit the children in a circle in your outdoor area. Remind them of the Circle Time rules. Explain that they are going to be thinking carefully about being outside. Ask the children to take a moment to use their eyes to look around the area. Pass the talking object around the circle. When they are holding the object, each child shares one natural thing they can see. Next, ask them to sit quietly and close their eyes. As they are sitting quietly, focus their attention by asking them the following questions: What can you hear? What can you smell? Again, pass the talking object around the circle and ask each child to share what they can hear and anything they can smell. Invite the children to put their hands on the ground. Pass around the talking object and invite each child to share a word to describe what they can feel. Highlight that there are many wonderful things about being outside and that spending time enjoying and appreciating all it has to offer can help us to feel happier and calmer.



2. What Do We Love about Being Outside?

Explain to the children that we are going to think about and celebrate all we love about being outside. Ask the children to talk to the person next to them about what they enjoy about being outside. Explain that this could be something in particular they enjoy doing, something they like watching, a particular animal or simply how being outside makes them feel. After a few minutes, pass the talking object around the circle and ask each pair to share what their partner loves about being outside. Conclude by celebrating all the things the children have shared.



3. Looking After All We Love

Talk about how it is wonderful that we all love so many different things about being outside. Explain that it is important to do all we can to look after the outside environment so that we can keep enjoying all it has to offer. Ask the children to take a moment to think about all the things they can do to look after the outside environment and invite them to share their ideas by raising their hand. Pass the talking object around the circle and invite each child to share something they are going to commit to doing to help look after the outside environment. Thank the children for all their contributions and end by passing a smile around the circle.

