

DEVELOPING observation skills

in your environment area

Take advantage of good weather with these short activities, designed to help your children develop their observation skills. Make up a kit for each child in a plastic zip wallet to include:



Colour cards (such as paint shade cards)

for the children to match the colour chips with things in the environment.

- *Are the names of the colours appropriate (is the pond the same colour as 'Swamp Green'?) or can they think of better colour names?*



Adjective cards

with contrasting adjectives, such as smooth/rough, shiny/dull.

- *The children collect the names of things that match the description.*



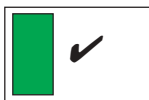
Mounting cards

with strips of double-sided sticky tape ready to collect any tiny samples, such as grasses, different shades of green, different textures.



Observation cards

squares with 5 cm square holes cut in the centre to encourage focused observation, and possibly drawing.



Identification charts

using real plant samples from the area. These should be laminated.

- *Challenge the children to find all the plants, ticking off each with a wipe-off pen as they find it.*



Challenge cards that pose questions such as:

- *'Can you find the smallest plant?' or 'the biggest plant?', 'something red?', 'an animal with legs?', 'a seed?', etc.*



Mirrors (or mirror tiles stuck onto card)

so children can look at the underside of things, a tree canopy, the sky, etc.

- ⚠ *Don't forget to tape the edges!
Warn against looking at the Sun!*

Sandwich bags for special finds