



Glenveagh Nature Education Programme

Module Fact Sheet for Teachers:

Infants Day

Book this module if:

Your children are aged 4-7 years and you want them to get a fun introduction to the natural world and their National Park. A great day too for teachers who want to go away confident in being able to identify up to 6 native Irish trees and begin the important foundation work in connecting young children with their local landscape.

(These are recommendations only - modules are open to all groups)

Learning Outcomes: what we hope the children in your class will gain from the module:

1. The chance to learn the names of some of the native trees in Glenveagh by looking at leaves.
2. Space and time to look at, sort, match and group items, including leaves, that they find on their walk and compare these to samples and pictures.
3. A basic understanding of the seasons and what this means for Trees.
4. Opportunities to use skills such as observing, talking, describing and making.
5. To be supported in using their imagination and creativity to make a picture of their favourite leaf or tree to take home, labelled with the name as a way of reflecting on their learning.
6. The space and time to begin developing a relationship with nature and living things.

Methods of teaching and activities: what children will experience:

1. A guided walk with hands on activities along the way, using all the senses.
2. Questions and challenges encouraging children to think about colours, shapes and numbers in living things.
3. Opportunities for talking and sharing, describing what they see.
4. Foraging and collecting natural items.
5. Art and craft activities with natural items, as well as opportunities to come up with their own ideas for creative play.
6. Reflective closure - each child will be asked about their favourite part of the day.

Suggested preparation activities to do in school:

- Take the children on a walk around the school grounds and see what leaves they can find. Bring some to Glenveagh to see if they are the same.
- Introduce the fact that the children are all different and have their own names. Each one is special and unique. Explain that trees are the same.
- Look at the shapes and sizes of trees with children. Get them to act out these shapes with their bodies. Ask them to think about what their tree would do if the wind blows.
- Read stories to the group about forests, trees and animals that rely on them.
- Ask the children to talk about or draw about a special tree they know.
- Learn about animals that live in or around trees.

Suggested follow up activities to do after your visit:

- Ask us for one of the 'Our Trees' workbooks to take away. It is full of activities to do.
- Make a giant collage on the wall with leaf shapes that the children have made.
- Plant a tree at school and watch it grow.
- Try to find out the names of the trees you have nearby (ask us for help if you need to!)
- Get the children to find out about trees they have at home and talk about them in school.
- Introduce the concept of Trees as resources for us and animals in a simple way - for example explain that we need trees because.... And animals like the birds rely on trees for.... Ask the children to bring in something from home that is made from wood. Watch which birds use the trees near the school.
- Start a nature table, bring in leaves, nuts, seeds and catkins and start with a tree theme.

Useful links for further information:

www.noticenature.ie

www.field-studies-council.org/publications/identification-charts.aspx

www.treecouncil.ie



Nature Education Programme

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