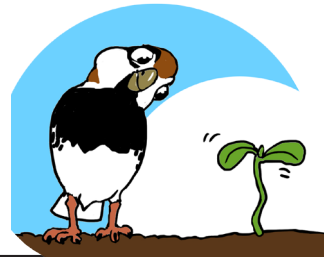




Children use magnifying lenses to explore nature from a different perspective, and stimulate creativity.

Nature Detectives 1



Keywords school grounds • observation • sensory activity • visual poem

- 1 For these activities you will need a nature spot outdoors. You will be using magnifying lenses or loupes (acquire a set for your class) and looking closely at things, so the space need not be large. You can expand on your Soil Magic Space for this, or simply use wild plants growing out of walls, etc.
- 2 Prepare small boxes with different seeds you have collected over summer or since October. Try to get seeds of different shapes, sizes and textures.
- 3 Place the loupes on a table and invite the children to take one and look through it. Allow them time to experiment and realise that you need to look at things closely for the lens to 'work'. Listen to the children and see if you can catch a sense of wonder at how magnified things look. Invite them to look at their own skin or each other's hair, eyes, etc.
- 4 Armed with loupes, lead the children to the seed boxes to have a close-up look at them. Ask questions: "What does it look like? How does it feel? What does the feeling remind you of?" These specific questions encourage creative thinking. Jot down words and phrases children use.
- 5 Invent a poem together, using words and phrases you jotted down. You could start with "It reminds me of..." and string together words and phrases alternately, using your own creativity to make it feel like a poem. As you read, include different ideas the children might suggest. Make a chart with the poem you composed together and urge the children to illustrate it with drawings or pictures they find. Display the final product and read it to them.
- 6 Take the children with the loupes to your outdoor nature spot and repeat the exercise with leaves, soil and other things they find. Jot down their ideas and this time, as follow up, create a visual poem. For instance, use pictures of the things they mention, write one word (the object looked at) in the middle of a chart/card, with pictures of what it reminds them of around it.

Use the Dinja Waħda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ children using loupes to explore seeds | ☐ children using loupes to explore nature |
| ☐ the poem chart | ☐ the visual poem display. |

