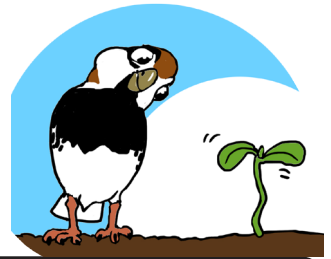




Children use magnifying lenses to explore nature from a different perspective, and develop mathematical literacy.

Nature Detectives 2



Keywords observation • craft and creativity • movement • school grounds

- 1 This activity builds on the skills of the previous activity, this time using observation and recording skills. You will need an area with flowers, preferably on school grounds, but you may also plan a school trip to the countryside.
- 2 You will need playdough to make shapes the children learned about in Maths to create the insides of flowers. Spread a sheet or take tables outdoors for the children to work on, and place the materials on it. The work place must be close to the flowers.
- 3 The children use loupes to look at the middle of the flowers. Marvel with them at the colours, shapes and patterns. Ask what shapes they can see. What is the most common shape? Which are the biggest/smallest/longest/shortest shapes in the flowers? Now say that everyone is going to make a flower from playdough and get them to choose a favourite flower. Make sure the children do not pick the flowers or pull off parts of them, and that they understand why this is not a good idea (if we pick flowers the insects will go hungry).
- 4 This part of the activity combines gross and fine motor coordination with observation and memory, together with maths and science. Before starting, each child rolls out playdough and cuts different shapes from different coloured playdough. Provide each with a square of cardboard on which to build their flower. Each then run to the flower patch, look through lens at the flower and run back to start making a flower like the one they are observing. The flower is built up slowly, and it does not matter if the end result looks very different from the original! Apart from the fun element, the exercise will also show you who has good memory and spatial skills, or who likes to be creative and totally invent their flower.
- 5 Take pictures of the playdough flowers for classroom display and head back to class. Now you can link flowers to people. Together you can build a boy or a girl from playdough shapes. This serves to bond children with nature in an "I am like nature" way.

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

Send photos of

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| ☐ children outdoors looking at flowers through loupes | ☐ children running to and fro and creating playdough flowers |
| | ☐ final display. |

