

2. Nursery Education and 1. Primary Education

Activity

What DO TREES give US?

Trees have been and still are a source of wealth for people. Their wood, for example, has helped us to keep warm on cold days and is used to make the furniture and utensils we use. Also thanks to them we make paper, we eat their fruit, they give us fragrant leaves, etc. And on top of this they offer us shelter to rest, protection from the sun in the shade, or they can also be a space to meet and tell stories.

All these gifts that the trees give us seem to be free but we must be aware that if we do not care for and protect them the consequences can be irremediable: they can get sick and even die. This disappearance would also lead to the loss of forests, animals and plants that live in them and, of course, a part of us.

Objective

To observe, recognise, speak and do simple research on the trees in our immediate environment (playground, garden, park, etc.) to develop attitudes of care, respect and responsibility for their conservation.

Skills DeveloPed

- Scientific, technological and health culture
- Mathematics
- Linguistic communication
- Humanistic and artistic culture

actiVity DeVeLopment

This time we aim to develop an activity based on the latest educational materials from the Department of Education of Bilbao Fine Arts Museum, 'Unique routes', designed and made by the artist Susana Talayero and the forestry engineer Claudia Maldonado.

The pedagogical approach begins by offering us a walk through a significant park in our town, an artificial urban forest, as an educational space where:

- We can learn outdoors in all seasons, whether it's hot or cold, raining or windy.
- All the senses will be present: smells, shapes, colours, textures, temperatures, sensations, etc.
- We will observe the characteristics of the various trees in the park: morphology (roots, trunks, bark, branches, leaves, flowers, seeds, fruit...) heights, textures, origins, endangered species, etc.
- We will learn about techniques to calculate the height and age of trees.
- We will look for visible and tiny animals, fungi and lichen living on the trees.
- We will discuss the gifts that trees give us, we will make a list of their benefits and together we will make a commitment to care for the trees.

The second phase will continue inside a nearby museum. Walking through the exhibitions and observing some of the paintings on display, we will check the importance of trees in the work of some artists.

Seeing is thinking and now it's time for the students to observe the paintings to 'talk' to the works. We will try to get the children to talk about the work, to describe what the image tells us, to explain what it suggests, what or who it reminds us of, what attracts their attention, etc. We will leave time to invent questions about the painting we see.

Finally, back in the classroom, we will make a plastic proposal available in the educational material of the Department of Education of Bilbao Fine Arts Museum:

VERY NATURAL MONSTERS BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH THE WIND ROSE

All the materials are on the Museum's website. www.museobilbao.com

Offering our children the opportunity to learn in a forest, park or garden helps them to love and respect nearby trees and to teach them to live in harmony in this great house, the Earth, of all the living beings that inhabit it.

- References:
- Educational Material Fine Arts Museum Department of Education and Cultural Action (DEAC) Unique Routes, Claudia Maldonado, Susana Talayero
 - Work project «The Forest» (0-6 years), Mariona Espinet

