

Sensory Garden Pre-Trip Activities

To prepare your students for the investigations they will do on site, we recommend doing these activities prior to your visit.

Color Box

Purpose:

To familiarize students with various color, shades, and textures

Materials:

- A box
- Colored squares of fabric, magazine paper, etc. in various hues

Note: This activity works best when carried out as a small group activity of about 2-3 students.

Steps:

1. Place the box in the middle of the table area with the colored squares in it.
2. Tell the students to sort the squares by color.
3. Discuss the color hues with the students.
4. Tell the students to create a pattern from their sorted piles.
5. (Optional) Have the students draw their pattern on paper and have a partner try to follow it.
6. (Optional) Have students create their own color boxes.

Texture Bag

Purpose:

To familiarize students with words that describe different types of texture

Materials:

- Any non-transparent bag
- An assortment of objects with a variety of textures (feather, sand paper, toothbrush, golf ball, etc)

Steps:

1. Sitting in a circle one student feels the objects inside the bag. Have that student say one descriptive word for what they feel in the bag.
2. Record the word the student says.
3. Pass the bag to the next student and repeat the process.
4. Students should be encouraged to think of different words than what has already been said.
5. Post the descriptive words where all students can see them.
6. (Optional) These words can play a role in your trip to the Garden. Put them on index cards and take them with you. As you walk through the Garden, encourage the students to use these words in their observations.

Literature Connections

Growing Colors by B. McMillan, *What is Texture* by S. Fitzgerald