

# WILD IN THE PARK

## NATURE CONNECTION: Sensory Pictures



This activity encourages children to explore parks and hone their observational skills of the natural world and investigate natural materials. It is great way to discover the wonder of parks whilst developing curiosity in children about their surroundings, wildlife, nature and plants as well as develop creative skills.

# WRITTEN BY

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Lucy trained as a theatre designer and eventually went on to work as a creative educator at The Royal Opera House and Creative Partnerships. She was a prop buyer for the Royal National Theatre and a specialist painter for hotels such as The Ritz and Claridge's. Lucy is passionate about using creativity to enhance learning and has many years experience designing creative activities with teachers, families and communities.



## Wild in the Park...

Wild In The Park enables children and young people to access leading outdoor learning facilitators and environmental specialists to become responsible park users and treasure community spaces and

resources. More information about the programme including other resources available for download can be found on our website [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)



# Learning Opportunities

- Observation
- Nature connection and appreciation
- Composition
- Using collage techniques

## Safety Tips

Please follow the 'no pick, no lick rule': Do not let children put fingers or found objects in their mouths and discourage them from picking or breaking anything that is growing.

- Always ensure that children wash their hands after playing outside and with natural materials, especially before eating.

- Young children may need more help with making their sensory picture especially if using sharp objects or adhesives but encourage them to do as much as possible themselves.

## Resources

- A camera or a phone to take photographs (optional)
- Scrap paper to take notes or to do drawings
- An old envelope to collect small leaves and flowers
- Water for children to drink!



# How to make a daily walk sensory picture

On a regular walk each day encourage children to explore their surroundings with all of their senses, and think about a range of ways children can capture their experience, for example drawing a sketch, writing a poem and so on.

Ask the children questions about their surroundings. What can they hear? What can they see that no one else will notice? Encourage them to explore things from different perspectives. Look up! Look down!

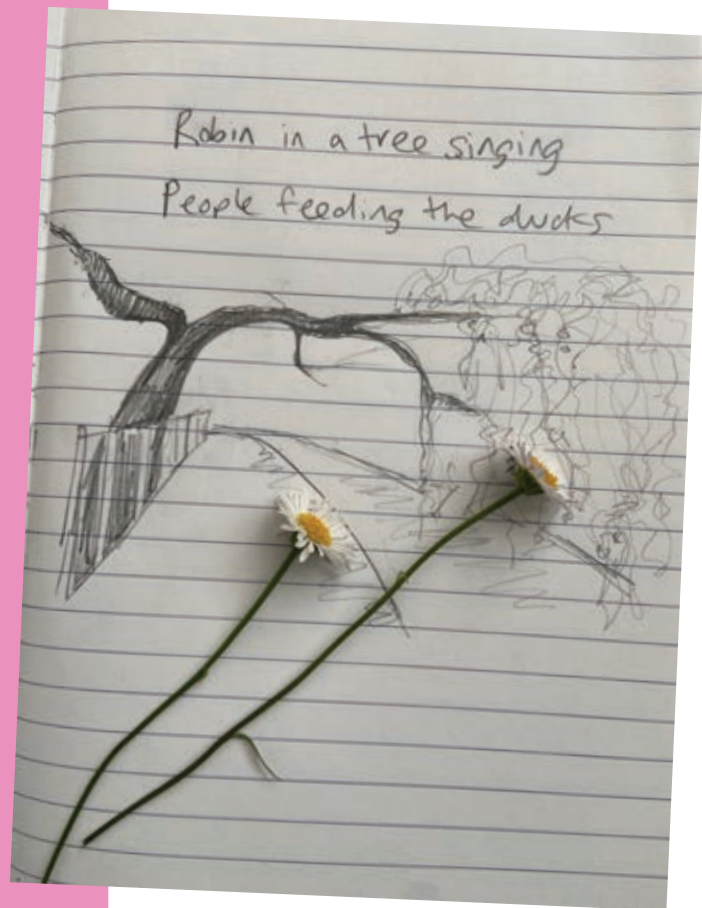
What small things can the children find that reminds them of their walk...a leaf, a feather perhaps?

On the walk, encourage children to collect things that catch their attention.

They might suddenly hear a bird, or see a sleeping cat, or perhaps they may see something that makes them laugh or inspires curiosity.

Encourage children to take photographs, notes, and collect little natural things.

Even on the most urban walk, there are still wildflowers and trees that grow.



## Back home:



- Find some paper that can be stuck together to make one large piece (any paper can be used - the back of some used wrapping paper or a cereal box opened out).
- Lay it out and draw along the bottom a pathway that goes across the paper. You can use coloured paper, magazine cuttings, to add colour and texture as well. Or paint, or use pens!



- If fallen flowers and leaves have been collected, then press them in a book before adding them to the sensory picture.
- Find an old school book, or drawing pad and place the flowers in carefully.
- Put a heavy weight like a pile of books onto the closed pad and leave them for a few days...the longer the better.

## Back home:



Add notes of what the children saw and heard to their picture. Add all of the found objects and items.



Try cutting out things from patterned paper and draw directly onto your sensory picture to add more texture and to give it a 3D feel.

Keep asking the children questions as they make their pictures. Encourage them to remember

more and more details from their walk and keep adding more details to their sensory picture.

'What else did you see and hear on your walk?'. They should keep painting and drawing and writing – until they are happy and satisfied with the end result!!