

Outdoor Literacy Learning Ideas

Making letters and words

Students can collect natural materials such as sticks, wood chips, rocks, leaves, pinecones etc. to make letters and words. They could also use sidewalk chalk to write or draw letters, words or messages for others.



Looking closely and doing observational drawings

Students can practice looking closely at different natural materials and drawing their observations like scientists. They might label their drawing with words, or write a sentence to communicate their observations or wonders. Students could also do an observational drawing of everything they can see from one spot and then write to describe what they see.

Sit spot reading, drawing or observing Listening to a read aloud

Students can choose a special "sit spot" that is just for them. This might be a place where students spend time reading independently, drawing or mindfully watching and listening to the world around them. Students might also enjoy listening to a read aloud outside. There are lots of great land-based picture books.



Storytelling

Students can collect a variety of natural materials found outside (sticks, rocks, grass, wood chips, leaves, pinecones etc.) and use them to create and tell stories. They might share these stories with others by telling them, taking pictures, making a video or by using writing/drawing to capture their stories like authors.

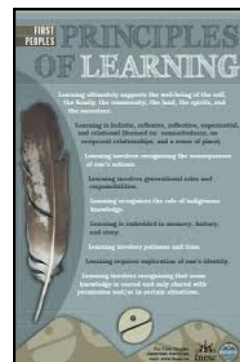
Making field guides

Students can draw and write their own field guides for living things (plants, trees, insects, animals etc.) found around their school yard or in their own neighbourhood. Students might use a combination of drawings, words, labels and/or sentences to share their ideas.



What to put in students' outdoor learning bags to support literacy learning?

- clipboard
- paper or notebook
- writing and drawing utensils
- sidewalk chalk
- 2-3 books to read
- magnifying glass



Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential and relational.



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