



Sensory Explorers

Smelling

Smelly potions

Divide the children into small groups and give a plastic beaker to each group.

Explain that they are going to make smelly potions.

Will they be able to create a fantastic forest perfume or will it turn into something really yucky?

Ask the children to spend a few minutes collecting natural ingredients from the forest floor. Get a leader to add a small amount of the magic potion (water) from the bottle and say a magic spell to 'bring out' the smells of the forest. Get the children to sniff their potions – is it a nice smell or a horrible smell? Let them smell each others' potions ... do they all smell the same or are they different?

Touching

Meet a tree

Ask the children to get into pairs. One person in each pair will be the seeing one, and the other will wear one of the blindfolds.

The seeing one guides their blind partner to a tree – carefully and safely, with hands outstretched, so that hands meet the tree first, and not heads! The blind person is encouraged to 'meet' the tree and get to know it, by feeling it with their hands (is it rough, smooth, mossy?), reaching up (can they feel any branches?), reaching down (can they feel any roots?), putting their hands or arms around it (can they reach all the way round?).

The seeing one then takes the blind one back to the starting place, turns them around three times and removes the blindfold. The one who was blindfolded then tries to find the tree that they met – checking it is the right one by feeling it again.

The pair then swap roles.

Guess the object

Ask the children to find a partner. One child wears a blindfold and stands still. The other child then finds an object from the forest floor (pinecone, bark, feather, pebble etc) and places this carefully into their partner's waiting hands. Can the blindfolded child guess what it is? Can they use some great words to describe how it feels?

Looking

Matching game

Give each group a word and colour pack. Ask them to search the forest around them. Can they spot things that match their describing words or their colours, or both? How good were their matches? Compare what they found with other groups.

Why not make a picture on the ground using your objects?

Listening

Cuckoo

In the bag there is a soft toy cuckoo which sings when you press it. Arrange the children into a circle then choose one child, who is happy to be blindfolded, to stand in the middle of the circle. The cuckoo is placed into the hands of one of the children in the circle. When the child squeezes the cuckoo to make it sing, the child in the centre must try and accurately point at the child holding the cuckoo. If they get it right, they swap places. Now try this again but with the rest of the children in the circle rubbing their hands together to simulate the wind and the rustling leaves of the forest. Can they still hear the cuckoo?

Sound story

Read the story 'A Walk in the Woods,' to your group. Make the story come alive by getting the children to make sounds to the words that are underlined. Who can make a noise like a chainsaw felling a tree? What noise would a mountain bike make as it zooms down a forest track?