



Ideas while out in Nature

- Plant observation – looking for new growth or signs of life or change in season
- Exploring senses – smell, sound, touch, sight
- Pooh stick races
- Make a birds nest, explore what a habitat is
- Smells – what smells and what doesn't, why do they think things smell?
- Touch and texture exploration
- Set up a mud kitchen or take some pots and pans to an area under some trees and see what happens
- Set up a bucket and rope pulley system into a tree with some pinecones or something else to fill and raise and lower
- Treasure bag collection (could use to make art sculpture) / treasure hunt
- Make huts – with natural items or sheets and tarps
- Fishing rods – make fishing rods with sticks and cabbage leaves or similar
- Make boats with sticks and cabbage leaves and see if they float
- Insect hunt – explore habitats
- Pollinator hunt – what bees need
- Create a pollination garden
- Set up a worm farm
- Make a bug hotel
- Develop a native bush area in your local park or on your school ground
- Set up a composting system for your centre or school
- Set up a sensory blindfold walk in the bush
- Motor skills session – jumping, climbing, balancing (physical activity)
- Autumn leaves – sensory experience, understanding life cycle, why change colour, how to compost (science)
- Safe stick practice – away from faces and people
- Egg carton hunt (size or colour) take it back and do some drawing or make a potion (maths, arts)
- Mindfulness walk listening to the sounds, what do they notice
- Making a dam
- Mud sliding or make mud pies
- Story telling (local, Maori or book reading outdoors)
- Outdoor music session – make sounds with nature (music)
- Flower or leaf hunt or other nature scavenger hunt (science)



- Sit under a tree for 5 mins and observe plants, animals, insects that come into the area. What do living things need in their habitat to survive? Compare to a different season / time of year. (science)
- Observe how animals, birds, insects move and try and mimic. (science)
- Explore the shapes of nature – how many can you find? Do any shapes change? (maths, science)
- Observe some wildlife (birds, insects) and draw it or do a photo challenge (arts)
- Cloud watching – lie on backs and say what you see. Can introduce types of clouds (oral communication, science)
- Discuss decomposition and decomposers (worms, fungi, snails, slugs, insects, bacteria). (Science)
- Make a frame with sticks and cabbage tree leaves. They can then either place frames on the ground and create an artwork out of natural materials or they can hold up the frame to a 'picture' they like, put the frame down and then the group moves around and looks at everyone's pictures while the artist holds up their frame and describes what they see and liked about that 'picture'. (Arts, language)
- Dig up some different plants e.g. grass, clover, dandelions, wild flowers and wash off their roots and examine them with magnifying glasses. Explore structure and differences. (Science, language)
- Run through a mindfulness session. Explore the senses and what the weather feels like on their body, or the ground they are sitting on.
- Discuss how frogs move and imitate their movement. Try and find a frog habitat or create one.