



FONTENELLE  
FOREST

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center  
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## Naturally Sense-Sational!

### Pre- and Post-Trip Activity Suggestions PreK & K

*Below are pre- and post-visit field trip activities that can be done either indoors or on your school grounds. We encourage you to give serious consideration to one or more of these -- they will enhance your class' field trip experience and are also a lot of fun! We look forward to your students' arrival and anticipate providing them with a fun and educational experience. If you have any questions, please call us at 402-731-3140.*

### **The following activities meet NE State Science Standards: SC 2.1.1, & 2.2.1**

**Activity:** Scented Sponges (smell and sight)

**Suggested Timing:** Pre-Trip

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:** (for class of 20) 4 colors of sponges, 5 bottles of extract (peppermint, lemon, onion, etc.), 1 box of toothpicks, 1 box of quart-size Ziploc or similar bags

**Procedure:** Cut the sponges into small (1/2") squares. You will need 5 squares per student. Place 2 capfuls of one extract plus 8 capfuls of water into one of the bags. Put in 20 sponge squares -- 5 of each color -- and squeeze the bag to saturate the sponges. Do the same for each extract. Stick a toothpick into 4 of each group of 5 sponges and place them around one section of the schoolyard. Give each student one sponge piece and challenge them to find the other four that have the same color and scent.

**Activity:** Observation Practice (sight)

**Suggested Timing:** Pre-Trip

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:** an assortment of natural objects (nuts, leaves, stones, apples, etc.), a sheet

**Procedure:** Allow students to look at the arrangements of objects for a few moments, and then cover the objects with a sheet. Ask students to try to name the things they can remember that are covered up. When students have named everything or can't remember anymore, remove sheet so they can check the objects.

**Activity:** Nature Window Hangings (sight, touch)

**Suggested Timing:** Post-Trip

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Location:** Outdoors and Indoors

**Materials:** waxed paper, newspaper, iron, string, and hole punch

**Procedure:** Have students go outside and collect several different shapes, sizes, and colors of leaves, grasses, and weeds. Give each student two 10" x 10" sheets of waxed paper and have them make a design with their plant parts on one of them. Cover this with the other sheet of waxed paper. Sandwich this between several sheets of newspaper. Turn an iron on to "medium" heat and press. Let the students trim the design around the leaves. Punch a hole through one end and tie a string through it. Now they have a piece of nature's art to hang in a window.

**Activity:** Peanut butter play dough (taste, touch)

**Suggested Timing:** Post-Trip

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:**

2 c. peanut butter

2 c. powdered milk

3 tbs. honey

**Procedure:** Combine in mixing bowl; if too sticky add more powdered milk, one tablespoon at a time. If desired, add chopped nuts or raisins. The students can play with it and/or eat it. Always make sure there aren't any students with peanut allergies.

**Activity:** Ear-Ye, Ear-Ye (hearing)

**Suggested Timing:** Pre-Trip

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:** various unbreakable small to medium-size objects (can be natural from outside or other things), sheet

**Procedure:** Ask students to name some sounds that are easy to identify. Next have two students hold up the sheet so that it is impossible for other students to see behind it. Tell the class that you are going to drop different objects behind the sheet. Their job is to use their sense of hearing to identify the object being dropped. Pick one object and drop it. Repeat. Have students guess objects and discuss reasons why they think it might be a particular thing. With younger students this activity works best if you show all the objects they will have to choose from at the beginning of the activity.

**Activity:** Sharp Eyes

**Suggested Timing:** Pre-Trip or Post-Trip

**Time:** 20-30 minutes

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:** students

**Procedure:** Have students sit in a circle. Choose one student to start out the game. This student should stand in front of the group and turn in a circle so that everyone has a chance to observe him or her. Next have the student hide and change one thing about themselves (untie a shoe, tuck in shirt, take glasses off, etc.). When the student returns have the other students take turns guessing what one thing has changed. The student who first guesses correctly can be "it" next.

**Additional Activities (See Worksheets at End of Document):**

- My Five Senses Worksheet
- Five Senses Scavenger Hunt

**Selected Resources**

- Critters Fontenelle Forest's Educational Trunk. (Ages: Pre-K – 1<sup>st</sup>)  
We are pleased to bring you a trunk specially designed for your classroom! There are plenty of hands-on experiences, books, games, puppets, and activities for a wonderful learning experience. For more information, and to reserve your trunk, call 731-3140.
- Acorn Naturalists: Resources for the Trail and Classroom. To order this educational resource catalogue for environmental and science education call 1-800-422-8886. To look at these resources on-line go to <http://www.acornnaturalists.com>.
- Cornell, Joseph. Sharing Nature With Children. Dawn Publishing: Nevada City, CA, 1998.
- Nabhan, Gary Paul, and Stephen Trumble. The Geography of Childhood: Why Children Need Wild Places. Boston: Beacon Press, 1994.
- Sheehan, Kathryn, and Mary Waidner. Earth Child: Games, Stories, Activities, Experiments and Ideas About Living Lightly on Planet Earth. Tulsa: Council Oak Books, 1991.

**Selected Stories**

Brighton, Cetherine. Five Secrets in a Box. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1987.

Brown, Marcia. Blaise Cendrars. New York: Macmillan, 1982. (African folktale about shadows).

Carle, Eric. The Secret Birthday Message. New York: Harper and Row, 1998. (About shapes).

# My Five Senses

smell=nose

touch=hand

taste=mouth

see=eyes

hear=ears

Write in the correct words from above to match each picture.

furry kitten



fragrant flower



colorful rainbow



loud train whistle



yummy ice cream



# Five Senses Scavenger Hunt

Have your students take a five senses scavenger hunt in your classroom. Bring 10 to 15 different items that easily lend themselves to the five senses. Place the items around your classroom before students arrive. Read aloud the description of each item to the students. In pairs, have children try to locate the item that is being described. Below are some items you might use:

- a. Something that tastes sour (lemon)
- b. Something that is rough to touch (sandpaper)
- c. Something that is pleasant to smell (flower or perfume)
- d. Something that tastes sweet (honey)
- e. Something that makes a loud sound (horn)
- f. Something that makes a ticking sound (a clock or timer)
- g. Something that feels soft (cotton)
- h. Something that looks colorful (a picture of a rainbow)
- i. Something that smells spicy (cloves)
- j. Something to look through or read (a book)