

Photographic memory

A lively game that encourages connection with the natural world while testing memory skills and developing ability to focus.



You will need:

- 2 cloths,
- a collection of 5 -10 objects common natural objects (obviously not rare or poisonous) found in your area eg a rock, pine cone, stick, nut shell, blade of grass depending on age of group
- a small collecting bag for each child (optional)

What to do:

1. Without the children seeing arrange the objects on one cloth and cover them with the other.
2. Ask the players to imagine they are a camera so that when you remove the cloth, they keep their eyes focused like a lens on the objects. They will then shut their eyes tight, like pressing the button and take a mental picture of the objects.
3. Take away the cloth and allow the children to look for 30 seconds. Once time is up, replace the cloth as they shut their eyes to 'take their photograph'.
4. Looking at their mental picture the children head off to find and collect examples of each.
5. After 10-15 minutes of searching call them back to lay out their finds. Compare with those under the cloth.
6. Talk about each item – note similarities and differences, what it is, where it came from, possible uses to humans or benefit for other species as part of ecosystem.
7. If anyone missed anything, encourage to look again.
8. Develop through further sessions increasing number of items or including more unusual items.

