

This is my trail

This activity helps children to really engage with nature and learn to use their senses to experience the natural environment. It also focuses on learning how to explore without damaging the environment. Children will gain experience in writing for an audience. They will need to think about giving clear explanations and clues.

Resources

- Paper and pencil, perhaps a clip board or sturdy piece of board
- Cards to fill in to show the trail has been completed

Activity

The teacher will explain to children that this activity is about them truly opening their eyes and using their ears, nose and fingers to find out about the reserve. The children will work in pairs.

To warm up and begin to appreciate what the reserve is really like the children take a stroll around the reserve, breathe in its wonder and maybe even begin to take some notes.

Then, still working in pairs they begin to produce their trail. When thinking about the route, they will need to provide clues for their class mates, e.g. the biggest tree, the tallest grass, the shiniest bark. The clues should encourage the use of different senses (but not taste). The trail should also make reference to looking after the environment and the importance of not causing any damage to the natural habitat. The trail should last for no longer than 10 minutes. The clues should be written on a card and will need to indicate where to start and where to finish.

Once ready the cards are swapped and pairs of children attempt to follow the trail on the card they are given.

Follow up

- Why not organise a day when family members or friends can come and see the reserve through the eyes of the children's trails?

Visit CVCg.org.uk for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

