

Core Competencies: Personal Social – Outdoor explorers

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| Curriculum: Personal Social -Social Awareness and Responsibility | Learning Goals: I am developing awareness of the physical and natural environment around me |
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Materials

- access to the outdoor environment
- a trusted adult or family member to go for a walk with
- pencil and paper or notebook

Activities



Let's get outside! The activities below come from "How to be an explorer of the world: Portable Life Museum" by Keri Smith. Choose at least one of the activities below to really notice, appreciate and gain awareness for your surroundings. If you can't get into a park or green area, you can do these activities on your front porch, deck, in your backyard or wherever you are outside. Be sure to take a trusted family member with you on your explorations!

EXTENSION: Check out [Keri Smith's website](#) and all her explorations and illustrations!

Choose one or many of the following explorations (adapted from How to be an explorer of the world):

- 1. Sound map:** Sit in a quiet location for 10-20 minutes. Draw all the sounds you hear and the times you heard them. Mark the approximate location of the sounds in relation to you on the map.
- 2. Arrangements:** Go out find a collection of things—lots of leaves, or rocks, or sticks or anything you find a lot of. Bring them home and come up with many different ways of displaying and arranging them. Try to think of ways you have never considered: sealing them in ice, making a long chain, putting them in a dollhouse. Experiment with your little museum collection.
- 3. The language of trees:** Collect as many parts of trees as you can that have fallen on the ground. Take your collection and make something new—a sculpture, a display, a science experiment, do drawings wrap yarn around it—experiment and create!
- 4. Accidental art:** Go for a walk. Identify and document existing “art” that you find—things that are perhaps not meant to be art. Examples could be: spilled paint on the road, cracks in the sidewalk, rust, stains on the sidewalk, things that are damaged, random arrangements of objects hanging out.