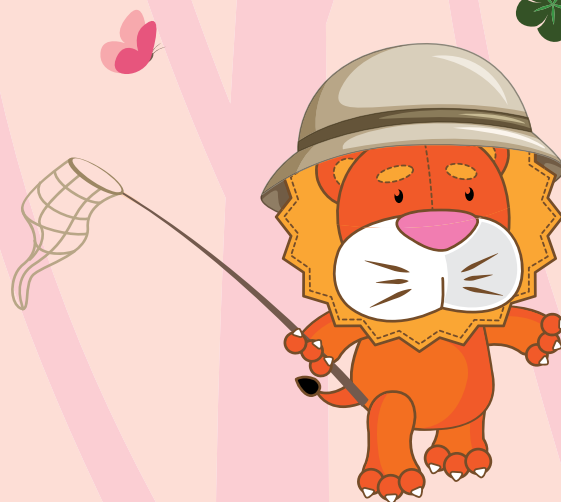


# FUN LEARNING OUTDOORS!

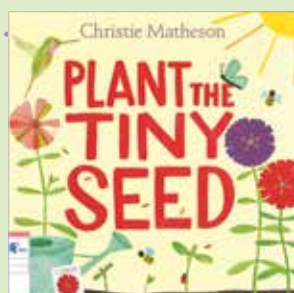
Outdoor play enables children to explore the natural environment and to become more curious of their natural surroundings.

There are many benefits to outdoor learning. Outdoor learning can stimulate brain development and enhance cognitive functions, fulfil children's need for adventure, improve their emotional and interpersonal skills and develop conceptual knowledge. In this kit, we have selected a variety of activities and stories that you can utilize to tap on the benefits of outdoor learning.



## Books that are included in the Toolkit:

All rights reserved. New York : Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers [2017]



Plant a seed to watch it grow. Press on the cloud to make it rain. Jiggle the book to scatter the seeds. This book includes interactive text that teaches very young children how flowers sprout and mature. It also contains watercolor depictions of a flower in various stages of growth.

All rights reserved  
Lewes : Ivy Press, 2013.



Who lives around the apple tree? Shine a light behind the page and see... Explore a tree up close and you will find a small world filled with great surprises! From worms wriggling among the roots, to birds nesting high in the branches, the hidden wonders of this amazing habitat are revealed when the page is held up to a light.

### What is included in this insert?

1. Books related to the theme
2. Lesson plan for teachers
3. Thematic activities for students
4. Printables



## LESSON PLAN

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Children will be able to identify the basic parts of a plant and understand the importance of plants in our lives.

### TUNING IN (5 MINS):

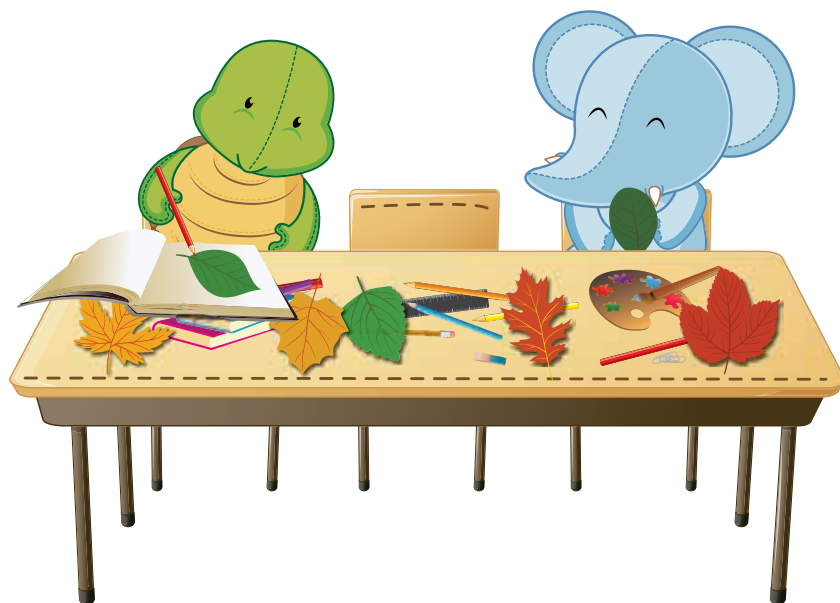
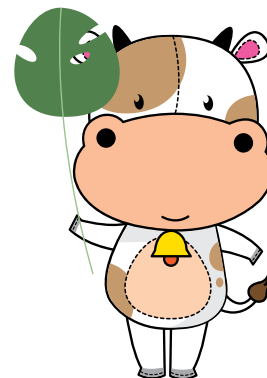
- Introduce the various parts of a tree by using a picture of a tree.
- Explain to the children the importance of water, sunlight, and soil for a tree to grow.
- Ask the children about the importance of trees in our lives. Can humans live without them? For example, explain that trees are natural habitats for other animals, and that they provide shade, fresh air etc.

### INSTRUCTIONS (5-10 MINS):

1. Read the book "Secrets of the Apple Tree" by Carron Brown aloud.
2. Pause as you read and ask the children guiding questions such as:
  - Do all trees have flowers and fruits?
  - Can you name the different parts of a tree?
  - Can you name some animals that live in trees?

### GUIDED PRACTICE (30-40 MINS):

- Teachers are encouraged to bring their children outdoors on a leaf hunt.
- Tell the children to collect different types of leaves.
- They can place their leaves under white paper and rub crayons over them to create leaf rubbings.
- Then, provide a silhouette of a tree on a big piece of mah-jong paper.
- Let the children cut out their leaf rubbings and stick them onto the tree.



### CLOSURE (10 MINS):

- Ask the children what they have observed when they were collecting the leaves. Are the leaves they collected different or similar in colour, texture or shape?
- Do they belong to the same trees?

## Plant the Tiny Seed (A copy of this book is included in the toolkit)

Author: Christie Matheson

Call Number: Early Literacy Picture Books English MAT

### TALKING POINTS:

- Introduce the book to the children, and describe the cover.
- Read the book "Plant the tiny seed" by Christie Matheson aloud.
- Pause as you read and ask the children guiding questions such as:
  - i. Where do plants come from?
  - ii. What does a seed need in order to grow?
  - iii. Why does the author want to shoo away the snail in the story?
  - iv. What do you think the ladybug, worm and other insects are doing in the story?
- Target vocabulary: seeds, leaves, fruit, flower, stem, roots, sunlight, water, air, soil



All rights reserved. New York : Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers [2017]

### ACTIVITY FOR PLANT THE TINY SEED (Suitable for N1-N2)

#### COLOUR BY NUMBERS

- Teachers can refer to **Printable I** in this insert for the activity. This activity helps children pick up numeracy and patterning skills.

Once the activity is completed, discuss the following points with the children:

- Ask them if they remember the different parts of a plant and what the different parts do to help a plant to grow.
- Get together and sing the following song with actions to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat".

*Grow, grow, grow a plant  
Starting with the seed  
Give it soil, sun, and water  
That is all you need!*

## Secrets of the Apple Tree (A copy of this book is included in the toolkit)

Author: Carron Brown

Call Number: Early Literacy Picture Books / Non-Fiction English 577 BRO

### TALKING POINTS:

Introduce the title to the children, and prompt them with the following questions.

- What do they see on the cover?
- What can they find in the tree besides apples?
- Target vocabulary: soil, colours, apple, leaf, tree, bird, green, seeds, animals, fruits



All rights reserved. Lewes : Ivy Press, 2013.

### ACTIVITY FOR SECRETS OF THE APPLE TREE (Suitable for K1-K2)

#### MY LITTLE GREEN HOUSE

- Teachers can refer to **Printable II** in this insert for the activity. This activity helps the child to learn that seed needs water and sunlight to grow.

#### Materials needed:

- 1 small plastic zip lock bag [20cm (H) x 18cm (W)]
- Cotton balls (around 6 pieces)
- 1 plastic cup with water
- Beans for growing. (e.g. red beans, green beans, soy beans)

#### Instructions:

1. Soak the beans overnight in a plastic cup to speed up the germination process.
2. Invite the children to pick around 6 cotton balls each. Soak them in water and squeeze out the excess water.
3. Put the cotton balls in the small container with the beans.
4. Complete the activity for Printable II.
5. Place the container and Printable II near a window, or at an outdoor garden area. Observe the growth of the plant daily.

Once the activity is completed, discuss the following points with the children:

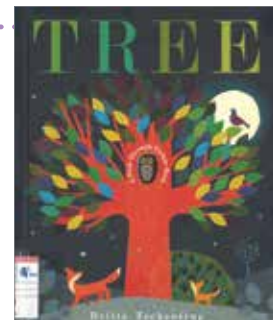
- Which are the seeds that grew and which are those that did not?
- What was on the cotton wool that helped the seeds to grow?



# RECOMMENDED TITLES: FUN LEARNING OUTDOORS!

**Title:** **Tree : A Peek-Through Picture Book**  
**Author:** Patricia Hegarty  
**Illustrator:** Britta Teckentrup  
**Publisher:** New York : Doubleday Books for Young Readers, [2015]©2015  
**Section:** Early Literacy Picture Books  
**Call Number:** English HEG

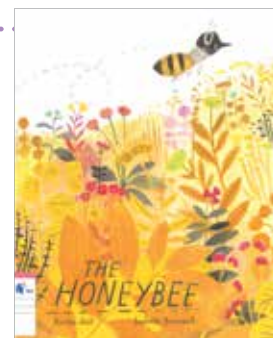
**Summary:** A book with peekaboo holes that promises little ones with lots of fun while educating on the ecosystem supported by a tree.



All rights reserved.  
 New York : Doubleday Books for Young Readers, [2015]©2015

**Title:** **The Honeybee**  
**Author:** Kirsten Hall  
**Illustrator:** Isabelle Arsenault  
**Publisher:** New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, [2018]©2018  
**Section:** Early Literacy Picture Books  
**Call Number:** English HAL

**Summary:** Illustrations and rhyming text follow endangered honeybees through the year as they forage for pollen and nectar, communicate with others at their hive, and make honey.



All rights reserved  
 New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, [2018]©2018

**Title:** **Lola Plants a Garden**  
**Author:** Anna McQuinn  
**Illustrator:** Rosalind Beardshaw  
**Publisher:** Watertown, MA : Charlesbridge, 2014.  
**Section:** Early Literacy Junior Picture Lending  
**Call Number:** English MAC

**Summary:** Lola plants a flower garden with her parent's help, and watches it grow.



All rights reserved  
 Watertown, MA : Charlesbridge, 2014.

**Title:** **Somebody Swallowed Stanley**  
**Author:** Sarah Roberts  
**Illustrator:** Hannah Peck  
**Publisher:** London : Scholastic, 2019.  
**Section:** Early Literacy Picture Books  
**Call Number:** English ROB

**Summary:** Plastic bags don't belong in the sea! Everybody has a taste for Stanley, but he is no ordinary jellyfish. Most jellyfish have dangly-gangly tentacles, but Stanley has two handles. Other jellyfish have a magical glow, but Stanley has stripes. A powerful message about plastic pollution from environmental expert Sarah Roberts.

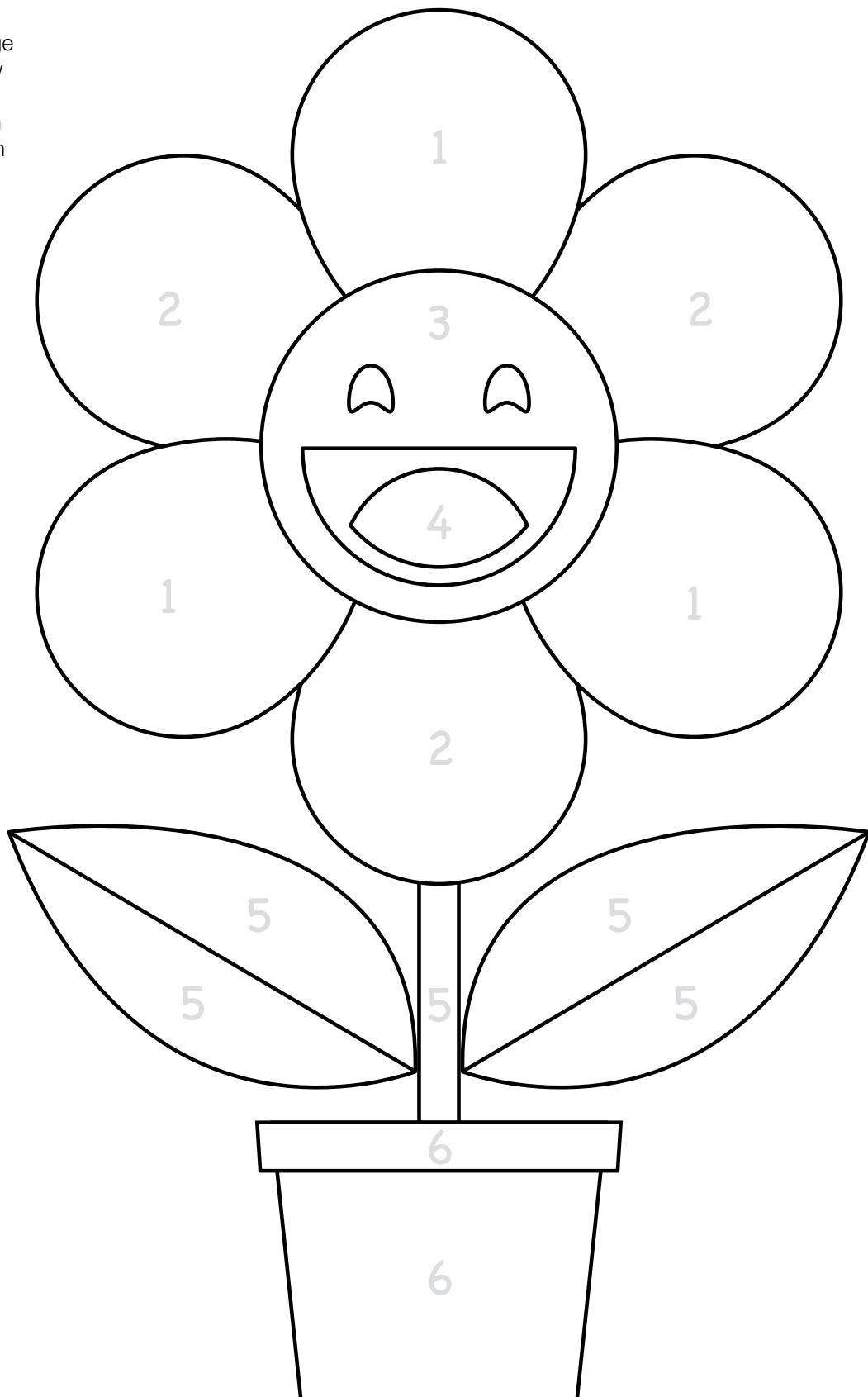


All rights reserved  
 London : Scholastic, 2019.

**COLOUR BY NUMBERS****INSTRUCTIONS FOR "COLOUR BY NUMBERS":**

Colour the picture according to the numbers below:

1. Red
2. Orange
3. Yellow
4. Pink
5. Green
6. Brown

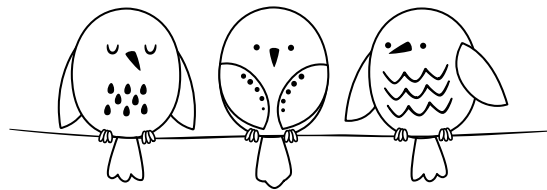




## MY LITTLE GREEN HOUSE

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR "MY LITTLE GREEN HOUSE":

- Print this on cardstock for durability and colour it.
- Cut out the printable.
- Place the container with the cotton balls and beans at the back of this printable.
- Write down the child's name in the blank spaces below, for example, John's Green House.



's

Green House



Cut out to see your  
bean sprout grow!

