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NATURE, THE BEST TEACHER

WE LEARN A LOT FROM PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Main Value: Environmental Responsibility

Sub-value: Values from nature

Value Description: Environmental Responsibility is essentially love for the environment. Hence it is a derivative of the core universal human value, love. This main value aims to inculcate love for the environment that would translate into taking care of it. This value is extremely important in current times when human activity is threatening the very survival of the planet. Thoughts and ideas regarding conservation and protection of nature have been taken from modern scientific research.

Nature is humankind's first teacher. All knowledge about life has come from observing nature and its creatures. Children can learn a lot of values from nature and practice them in their

daily lives. The concept of interdependence can also be introduced here. This lesson would also accomplish the following: children would learn to observe nature more keenly, they would also appreciate, respect and trust nature. This would develop the mindset to conserve and protect nature.

Number of Sessions: 2

Learning Objective: To enable students to understand the values inherent in nature.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the lesson students will be able to

- (a) Narrate the story
- (b) List values one can learn from nature
- (c) Give simple examples of interdependence in nature

Teacher's Notes: Begin the session with 1 minute silent sitting.



Teacher's Notes

- a. Talk to the children about how they learn different things in different ways from different people. For example, at home, they learn many things from parents/family members/guardians and at school they learn from teachers, friends and others.
- b. Encourage the children to talk about who else teaches them. For example, siblings, neighbours, house help and friends.
- c. Gradually lead the conversation towards how nature is a great teacher. Encourage the children to think about how nature teaches them many things. Talk about plants and animals and what they teach us.



Roy was very excited to go to the park today with his parents. He loved learning about his surrounding and his dad would often tell him interesting things about them.

He always said, "Roy, we can learn many things from nature."

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- Where did Roy and her parents go often?
- What did Roy father tell her about?
- From whom can we learn many things?



The first thing Roy saw as he entered the park was a honey bee around the flowers. Roy's dad pointed to it and said, "Look carefully! The honey bee is gathering nectar from the flower. The nectar is the honey bee's

food. The animal kingdom teaches us to share and help each other." Roy looked in awe.

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- a. What is the bee gathering from the flower?
- b. What is the bee's food?
- c. What does the animal kingdom teach us?



Walking further he said, "Can you see that branch, Roy?" "A bird has built its nest by collecting and carrying dry grass and twigs every day. We should learn to work hard like the bird."

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- a. What was on the branch?
- b. How did the bird build its nest?
- c. How should we be?



Roy then saw a cat. "Dad what can we learn from a cat?" They saw the cat licking itself. Roy's dad said "When it comes to personal hygiene, cats are the cleanest. They are naturally equipped with a barbed tongue to lick themselves clean."

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- a. Do animals teach us anything?
- b. How does the cat keep itself cool and clean?

On their way back home from the park, as Roy dozed off, he remembered all that he had learnt from his surroundings today.

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- What does the herd of cattle or a flock of sheep teach us?

Activities After Storytelling

1. Group activities

Divide the children into groups and encourage them to do the following activities. The activities can be rotated across the groups to identify how each child reacts to the learning and figure out the best approach for each child.

- a. Draw/colour a picture of a bee on a flower, a bird building a nest, cats, a flock of sheep or a herd of cows (one picture for each group).
- b. Connect the dots to reveal images of bees/cats/cows/sheep/flowers/birds.

2. Whole class activity

- a. Encourage the children to retell the story in their own words.
- b. Identify and appreciate imagination/accuracy.

3. Think Tank

- a. Tell the children that every day the sun rises without fail; likewise, we too should be regular and punctual.
- b. Talk about how a spider builds its web carefully and its hard-working nature.
- c. Also tell the children that everything is interdependent on earth-the plants depend on rain, sunlight and soil to grow; we also need each other to be happy.



Parents/family members/guardians can take their children to the zoo or a farm or the bird park so that they can observe the animals and birds and learn from them.