

## **POST-VISIT DISCUSSION: Small-group**

*To be implemented AFTER arboretum visit 1*

### **Objectives:**

For children to think and talk about their first arboretum visit

- Share arboretum explorations of living and non-living things
- Participate in a science talk and use drawings as props for discussion
- Reflect on explorations and living things observations
  - Characteristics and needs of plants and animals
  - Relationships between plants, animals, and their environment
- Inquiry skills: Compare and contrast observations; look for patterns and relationships; generate ideas based on evidence; communicate observations, ideas, and thinking

### **What You Need:**

- Pre-visit Prediction Chart
- Children's drawings and dictations from the arboretum
- Any photos you took at the arboretum
- Tree parts collected at the arboretum: leaves, fruit, flowers, seeds

### **What to Do:**

#### ***First: Talk about Arboretum Experience***

*Facilitate discussion in small groups so all children can participate. As children talk, make a list on chart paper under the heading "What We Observed at the Arboretum" With each group add to the list. Remember that questions below are only suggestions. Use questions carefully so as not to overwhelm children. Give each child his/her drawing from the arboretum visit.*

Invite children to share and describe their arboretum drawings and revisit their experiences as "naturalists" at the arboretum. Ask questions and make comments like:

- "What kinds of living and non-living things did you observe at the arboretum?"
- "What was the most interesting thing you discovered and why?"

#### ***Second: Encourage children to reflect on plant observations***

Ask questions and make comments that encourage children to think and talk with one another about trees and other plants as living things by making comments/asking questions like:

- "What are some things you discovered that were the same about all the trees and other plants we looked at?" Support by asking specifically "What was the same about the parts of the trees/plants?" or "What is the same about how they grow?"
- "What are some things that were different?" Support by asking specifically "What was different about the leaves/the stem/the roots?"
- "What did we discover about the fruit of the tree and what was inside?" (show the fruit) and "What other kinds of trees have fruit with seeds?"
- "What do you think these different kinds of seeds would grow if we planted them?" (Show the seeds) "How could we find out?"
- "How could we find out more about trees?"

#### ***Third: Encourage children to reflect on animal observations***

Ask questions and make comments that encourage children to think about relationships between living things and the environment. You will not talk in general about "animals" but will talk specifically about the particular animals that children observed:

- "What were the creatures you observed doing in and around the trees?"
- "How do they move around the tree and how do you think their bodies help them?"
- "Why do you think a tree might be a good place for these animals to visit or live?"
- "Do you think the animals help the tree too? How do you think so?"

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- “How could we find out more about animals that live in and around trees?”