

# Pre-K March Newsletter

## Investigation 1

What are the characteristics of the trees in our community?

## Investigation 2

Who lives in trees?

## Investigation 3

What food comes from trees?

## Investigation 4 How do trees change

?

It is time for spring! It's been a chilly winter but the sun is finding its way through and now it's time for the 'Tree Study'. Why investigate trees? Trees fascinate children and spark their curiosity and wonder. Think about your childhood memories that involved trees. Did you ever climb a tree? Did you play 'chase' and hide behind a tree? Did you ever lie underneath a tree and wonder whether it touched the sky? Did you ever wrap your arms around a tree? Did you ever wonder why there are holes in a tree and what they're for? Did you ever imagine what the world would be like without trees? This study builds upon the children's interest in trees and to help them explore Science and Social studies. Rather than emphasize naming different trees, this study focuses on helping the children develop an understanding of the characteristics of trees and their role in our natural and man-made world.

Each week we will start a new investigation. An investigation comes with a question of the week and our learning will evolve around these questions.

"Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives." ~ Thomas Berry



# What can you do at home?

During the tree study, in class we will be observing and comparing trees to learn about what lives in them, what they're made from. And who cares for them. We hope that this study will help the children explore and appreciate nature. As we study trees, we will use literacy, math, the arts , and technology to explore the topic in depth. We will learn important social studies and scientific concepts through firsthand investigations.

If you are able to go on a 'tree walk' with your child, we would appreciate your help in collecting tree parts to investigate. If you can, please take a bag to a tree area and collect things that have fallen, such as leaves, bark, twigs, flowers or fruit.

We need your help to enrich your child's learning. If you work with trees, please let us know.

Please help your child explore and appreciate nature by learning about trees. Invite your child to talk about trees. Share stories about your favorite childhood memories involving trees and games you might have played around them. Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his or her thinking about trees.

" I wonder why leaves fall from trees?" Or, "I wonder what makes some trees grow so big?"

At home, collect parts from trees, and encourage your child to sort them. Your child might also enjoy making a collage by arranging and gluing items onto paper or card.

Thank you for playing an important role in our learning.

## Supportive websites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTbswdlQ3-o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5I7u5FMQxHA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7dKRBZVLvI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn8avqHFipg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJqy967xslc>

<https://www.ixl.com/math/pre-k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZjpI6fgYSY>

<https://www.ixl.com/ela/pre-k>



More and less

# What will we do in school?

Rhyme

Counting

Shapes and sizes

Tallying & graphing

Measuring

Observational drawings &  
paintings

Patterns

Story problems

Letters & Phonological  
awareness

Dramatic story  
telling

Describing art

Areas of learning:

Math

Literacy

Science & Technology

The Arts

Music

Physical development

Social & Emotional

development

Alike & different

Sorting & classifying

## Important dates and reminders

**3/18 Mother's Day Event**

**3/26 International Day**

**3/31 Pizza Day**