

From the Kodo Classroom

It's always a good time to show nature some love, especially during Love a Tree Day on May 16th! Celebrate with this fun exploration of trees!

Research Informs Empathy

Spark curiosity around trees with questions, nature walks, or looking at bark, leaves, and sticks with a magnifying glass. Here are some questions to get started:

- Trees give us oxygen to breath. What can we give back to them to say thank you?
- How can we help take care of trees?
- What do trees need to survive and grow?
- Do different trees need different things?
- How can we help trees grow?

Vocabulary:

research, data, growth, roots, branches, bark, leaves, photosynthesis, empathy

Research:

Children are natural researchers. Support children in their research of trees. They may use books and technology resources to answer their questions. Encourage children to be active documentors in their research process. Offer clipboards, paper, and drawing materials to record information they have gathered. Meet as a large group and encourage children to share what they found during their research.

Action Plan:

Support children to create an action plan to bring their ideas to life. Help them gather supplies they might need. Plan a day or week to explore trees around the school or community.

Teaching Tips:

- Gather books from your classroom, school, or local library that have information or stories about trees to have as a reference for research.
- Find tree experts in your community such as landscapers, arborists, or nature museum professionals. Invite them into your school (in-person or virtually!) to share their knowledge.
- Take photos or videos of children as they care for trees while out around the school or neighborhood. Share these with parents and the community!

Extension:

Invite children to use their drawings and any photos that were taken while exploring trees to create a book for the classroom. This is a great way for them to document their research and learning experience.