

Project Learning Tree “Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood” activities correlation to the SC Early Learning Standards

The SC Early Learning Standards (SC ELS) describe expectations for what children will learn, starting with infancy and covering all ages through kindergarten entry. In general, they describe expectations that many children will reach toward the end of their respective age level. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list, but they are a place to start when planning activities to support children’s growth and development.

The SC ELS are organized into goals for practical use when developing appropriate activities for young children. These are divided into six developmental domains and numbered. The domains are: Approaches to Play and Learning (APL), Emotional and Social Development (ESD), Health and Physical Development (HPD), Language Development and Communication (LDC), Mathematical Thinking and Expression (MTE), and Cognitive Development (CD).

The following document shows how specific activities in the Project Learning Tree “Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood” align with many of the goals located in the SC Early Learning Standards. Each structured activity in the book has been correlated to at least one goal in the SC ELS; the specific goal’s abbreviation and number is used (e.g. *HPD-5*). While the document was thoughtfully developed in detail, there may be additional correlations. Unstructured activities or basic suggestions for providing materials were not correlated.

The SC Early Learning Standards (2017) can be found as a free, printable PDF document on the SC Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education website at www.scchildcare.org.

These correlations were completed at no charge to the SC Project Learning Tree program by Tia Prostko. Tia Prostko is a health educator with ABC Quality, the state’s quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) in child care. ABC Quality is a program in the Division of Early Care & Education, housed at the Department of Social Services. As a health educator, she provides technical assistance and training on nutrition, physical activity and wellness policies to child care providers throughout the Upstate region of SC. She is also coordinating a statewide plan for incorporating outdoor play and learning environments and nature pedagogy into early care and education settings. She also is a volunteer PLT Facilitator who is certified to lead PLT educator workshops.

Find more information about the ABC Quality program at www.scchildcare.org.

PLT Activity Name	Featured Experience	Learning Through Music & Movement	Reading and Writing	Enjoying Snacks Together	Art	Math & Manipulatives	Discovery Table	Woodworking	Dramatic Play
1. The Shape of Things	Shape Walk APL-1, APL-2, LDC-1, LDC-2, MTE-3, MTE-4, HPD-5, CD-1, CD-2, CD-10, CD-11	Sing with leaf shapes MTE 4, HPD-4	Make a shape guide to your schoolyard LDC-2, LDC-5, LDC-8, LDC-9, LDC-10, MTE 4, CD-9, CD-10	Make & eat fruit kabobs HPD-5	Decorate binoculars HPD-5, CD-4	Play with tangrams HPD-5, MTE-4	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Dance with leaves MTE 4, HPD-4			Make sun prints CD-1, CD-10, CD-11	Make twig shapes HPD-5, MTE-4			
2. Sounds Around	Forest Concert APL-1, APL-2, ESD-6, HPD-4, LDC-1, LDC-4, CD-1, CD-4, CD-5	n/a	Take a listening walk APL-1, APL-2, HPD-2, HPD-5, LDC-1, LDC-3, LDC-4, LDC-5, CD-10, CD-11	n/a	Make & decorate rainsticks HPD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11	n/a	Match the sounds APL-1, APL-2, APL-8	n/a	Set up a recording studio HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5
							Make instruments APL-1, APL-2, LDC-1, LDC-2, LDC-3, MTE-1, MTE 5, CD-11		
3. Get in Touch with Trees	Mystery Box APL-1, APL-5, CD-1, CD-2	Go on a "bear hunt" HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	Write a touch book CD-1, CD-4, CD-4, CD-15	Eat textured trail mix CD-1, MTE 5	Make bark rubbings CD-4, CD-10, CD-11	Sort tree seeds MTE-3, MTE-4, CD-1, CD-10, CD-11	n/a	Experiment with sandpaper CD-1, CD-2, CD-10, CD-11	n/a
		Go on a texture walk LDC-1, LDC-7, CD-1			Paint with tree textured paint CD-4				

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4. We All Need Trees	Applesauce: Cook applesauce/ No cook blender applesauce APL-1, APL-2, LDC-1, LDC-2, LDC-3, MTE-1, MTE 5, CD-11	Make “applesauce” APL-4, HPD-2, HPD-4, LDC-1, CD-3, CD-4, CD-5	Imagine your own apple tree APL-1, APL-4, LDC-1, LDC-2, LDC-4, LDC-8, LDC-10, CD-4 CD-5	n/a	Draw with cinnamon sticks HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	n/a	Chart reactions to smells APL-1, LDC-1, LDC-4, LDC-5, MTE 5, CD-1, CD-2, CD-9	Smell some wood APL-1, LDC-1, CD-1, CD-10, CD-11	n/a
		Smell the flowers APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, HPD-4, LDC-1, LDC-5, CD-1, CD-2, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10			Paint with scented paints HPD-5, CD-1, CD-4, CD-5				
		Make potpourri HPD-5, CD-1							
5. Signs of Fall	Autumn Adventure APL-1, APL-2, LDC-2, LDC-3, LDC-4, LDC-5, HPD-2, CD-1, CD-2, CD-3, CD-10, CD-11	Pretend to be dancing leaves HPD-4, LDC-4, CD-4, CD-5	Read a story and write a book CD-1, CD-2, CD-4, CD-5, HPD-5	Hide-and-seek snack APL-1, APL-2, APL, 3, APL-4, APL-5, CD-10, CD-11	Create dried leaf art HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	Graph a leaf collection MTE-1, MTE-3, MTE-4, MTE-5, CD-1, CD-10	Look inside nuts APL-1, APL-2, CD-10, CD-11	Make leaf presses CD-10, CD-11	n/a
		Sing a fall song LDC-1, LDC-4, CD-4, CD-5			Experiment with leaf stencils HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5				
6. Evergreens in Winter	Winter Treats APL-1, APL-2, APL-4, LDC-1, LDC-2, LDC-3, LDC-4, HPD-5, CD-2, CD-3, CD-10, CD-11	Make tree silhouettes APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, HPD-4, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10	Create and share winter stories APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, LDC-2, LDC-4, LDC-5, LDC-9, LDC-10, LDC-13, LDC-15	Eat evergreen tree sandwiches HPD-5, MTE-4	Paint with evergreen paintbrushes HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	Sort cones MTE-2, MTE-4, MTE-5, CD-10, CD-11	Feel prickly and tickly branches CD-1, CD-10, CD-11	n/a	Pretend to be animals APL-3, APL-4, CD-10, CD-11

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7. Bursting Buds	Talk to the Trees APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, HPD-2, LDC-5, LDC-8, LDC-10, CD-9, CD-10, CD-11	Dance around a Maypole HPD-4, CD-2, CD-4, CD-5, CD-9	Describe Spring with onomatopoeias LDC-3, LDC-4, LDC-5, LDC-7, LDC-11	Eat sunshine sandwiches HPD-5, MTE-3, MTE-4, CD-10, CD-11	Paint with pussy willows HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	Compare twigs MTE-4, MTE-5, MTE-6, CD-10, CD-11	Enjoy a sneak peek of Spring APL-1, APL-2, CD-10	n/a	n/a
		Play peekaboo with Spring APL-3, APL-4, CD-4, CD-5					Dissect buds APL-1, APL-2, HPD-5, CD-10, CD-11		
8. Adopt a Tree	Adopt a Favorite Tree APL-1, APL-2, LDC-4, LDC-5, CD-1, CD-10, CD-11	Dance the Hokey Pokey HPD-4, CD-4, CD-5, CD-11	Make an "Our Favorite Tree" scrapbook LDC-10, CD-3, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Picnic under a tree CD-1, CD-10, CD-11	Frame your favorite tree HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	Play a memory game with leaves MTE-4, CD-10, CD-11	Compare and label special trees MTE-4, CD-10, CD-11	n/a	n/a
					Pound leaf pictures HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11				
9. To Be a Tree	Tree Costumes APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, HPD-5, LDC-10, CD-1, CD-2, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Grow from a seed APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, LDC-1, LDC-2, HPD-4, CD-4, CD-5	Grow a tree APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, LDC-1, CD-2, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Build a tree APL-1, APL-2, LDC-1, LDC-2, HPD-1, HPD-5, CD-2, CD-3, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Make a "hand-y" tree mural CD-4, CD-5, CD-8, CD-10, CD-11	Build a felt board tree APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, MTE-4, MTE-6, CD-2, CD-10, CD-11	Sort tree parts LDC-9, LDC-10, MTE-3, MTE-4, CD-2, CD-10, CD-11	n/a	n/a
		Sing a tree song CD-4, CD-5			Make me a tree CD-4, CD-5, CD-10				

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10. Trees as Habitats	A Nature Walk APL-1, APL-2, APL-4, APL-8, HPD-2, LDC-2, LDC-5, LDC-7, CD-1, CD-2, CD-9, CD-10, CD-11	Act out a story APL-4, LDC-8, LDC-9, LDC-10, CD-4, CD-5	Write a class book APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, HPD-5, LDC-5, LDC-8, LDC-9, LDC-10, LDC-13, LDC-14, LDC-15, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10	n/a	Make masks to match "Goodnight Owl" story HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	n/a	Investigate animals and plants that depend on trees APL-1, APL-2, APL-7, CD-10, CD-11	n/a	Play in a tree house APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, CD-2, CD-4, CD-5, CD-6, CD-9, CD-10, CD-11
					Add animals to your tree mural HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5				
					Make a tree house HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5				
11. Three Cheers for Trees	Decorating Trees APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, HPD-5, LDC-2, LDC-3, LDC-4, LDC-5, CD-2, CD-10, CD-11	Plant a tree with song CD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Celebrate trees by writing a book APL-1, APL-2, APL-3, APL-4, HPD-5, LDC-2, LDC-3, LDC-7, LDC-8, LDC-10, LDC-13, CD-4, CD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Dip fruits HPD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Decorate a tree HPD-5, CD-4, CD-5	n/a	n/a	Experiment with different woods APL-1, APL-2, APL-6, HPD-5, CD-10, CD-11	Celebrate trees APL-3, APL-4, CD-4, CD-5
					Paint interesting tree pictures HPD-5, LDC-10, CD-4, CD-5				