

Kindergarten

Self-Guided Tour Enchanted Forest



Aligns with the following Arizona State Science Standards

S1C1-01, S1C1-02, S1C2-03, S1C3-01, S1C3-02, S1C4-01

S3C2-01

S4C1-01, S4C1-02, S4C2-01, S4C3-01

The following is a guide for teachers to use the Enchanted Forest with **Kindergarten** students. Enchanted Forest is a natural play space. The space is meant to be used in an exploratory fashion so we suggest that you divide the students into small groups, each with a chaperone, and have the groups complete the activities outlined below.

1. Before you come

Give each student some paper, a crayon, and a piece of string. The paper and crayon are to draw pictures of what they see in the Enchanted Forest. The string can be used as a measuring tool to help them determine between larger and smaller or longer and shorter objects.

2. The Space

In Enchanted Forest you will find the following areas of interest:

- Human-made Creek – this concrete creek is filled with a very low-level of water and is lined with colorful images of real and fanciful animals as well as natural objects such as leaves and shells.
- Natural Creek – a natural creek with a slightly deeper level of water
- Tree house – a wooden tree house for children to role-play in.

3. Activities

Observation

- Walk along the human made creek and look at all the objects that are located alongside of it and in the bottom.
- Ask students to look for objects that look like animals.
- Which animals look like real animals and which are fantasy creatures?
- Compare the objects by color, size, physical features, and any other means the students can devise.
- Walk along the natural creek: Ask the students if they can tell which creek is natural and which is human-made. What are the differences? Are there any similarities?
- Have the students find objects in the natural creek. How are they different/similar to the objects in the other creek? (Most of them should be natural.)

Counting

- There are several different groupings of objects in the human-made creek. Students can practice counting them.

Classification

- Stand in one section of the creek and ask the students to look at all of the objects in front of them and divide them into groups by common characteristics. How many different groups can they come up with?
- Practice classifying with objects found in the natural creek.

Senses Hunt

- Have the students go on a senses hunt in Enchanted Forest.
- Divide them into small groups and allow them to explore with their senses. They should not collect the items that they find, but talk about them in their groups.

Find objects that...

- Smell good
- Smell bad
- Feel smooth
- Feel rough
- Feel soft
- Feel hard
- Look like an animal
- Are the color red
- Are the color green
- Make a sound that you can hear

Animal home search

- Look for animals that make their homes in Enchanted Forest. Ask the students where they think the animals make their homes in Enchanted Forest? (you will see several kinds of wild birds, lizards, ground squirrels).
- Walk up to the uppermost paved path that is just outside the west side of the Enchanted Forest. Here you will find two animal exhibits (Galapagos tortoises and Egyptian spiny tailed lizards). The Galapagos tortoises are babies. Their parents can be found on the Tropics Trail near the elephants. Take some time to watch the tortoises and then go visit their parents. How do the babies compare to their parents?