

ON A TREE TRAIL - Welcome to Chances Park

Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 3-8 yrs. It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail."

*****Adults must stress to children that they should not put anything that they find in the park in their mouths, and that they should wash their hands after completing the activities.*****



Activity 1: Getting to know a tree.

- 1. Walk to the Tulip Tree which is marked number 1 on the map. Do you know why it is called a Tulip Tree?
- 2. Can you reach all the way around the Tulip Tree's trunk? Do you need a friend to help you?



Activity 2: Team tree.

- 1. Each part of the tree has a special job. Can you see the Tulip Tree's roots? What job do they do?



- ◇ Your feet and legs do one of the jobs that the roots do.
- ◇ Stand on one leg and raise your arms above your head. Do you feel wobbly?
- ◇ Put both feet on the ground, a little bit apart. Raise your arms. You should feel much more stable now.
- ◇ Tell your adult what the other important job is done by a tree's roots.

- 2. Have a close look at the bark of the Tulip Tree. Now close your eyes and feel the bark with your fingers. Can you tell your adult what it feels like? Some trees have rough and bobbly bark, some have smooth and flaky. As you move around the park take time to investigate the bark of the trees you pass.



Camouflaged Tulip Tree Beauty Moth

- 3. Can you tell a friend what the bark's job is? (Clue...it's job is a little bit like the job your skin does)

- 4. What do you think is underneath the bark? Later on in the trail you will visit a fallen tree. This will give you a chance to find out.



- 5. Look up! Are there any leaves on the tree? What colour are they? Look down! Are there fallen leaves on the ground? Pick one up and have a look at it. Can you see where it joined on to the twigs? Can you see any veins on the leaf?
- 6. The leaf's job is to collect energy from the sun. Stand in a group with your friends or family, holding leaves up to the sky. Spread them out so each leaf is in the daylight. That is the job of the branches and twigs.



Activity 3. Big and small.

- While you are walking around the park, look out for a leaf that is bigger than your hand, and a leaf that is smaller than your finger nail.

Activity 4. Look at Yew!

- 1. Take a walk to the Yew Tree (Number 2 on the map). What do you notice about the leaves of the Yew Tree? Yew Trees are evergreen trees. Tell your friend what evergreen means? Yew trees have leaves which are long, thin needles, that they keep all year round.
- 2. Can you spot any berries on the Yew Tree? If you can find one, ask your adult to squash one so that the seed pops out. New baby trees, or saplings, need space to grow. How do the seeds of the Yew Tree get taken away to different parts of the park?



Activity 5. Hello Holly

- 1. Walk along the path to the Holly Tree (number 3 on the map). Tell your adult about the Holly Tree's leaves. Even though they are spiky and tough lots of caterpillars like to eat Holly leaves.
- 2. If you look very carefully you might see a caterpillar, or see a leaf that has been nibbled! Does the Holly tree have any berries? Birds love to eat Holly berries.

Activity 6. Home to Creepy Crawlies.

- 1. Can you find the fallen tree trunk? (Number 5 on the map). Some of the bark has fallen off the trunk. Look carefully at the wood. There could be insects and other tiny creatures living in the dead tree. Can you find any? Show them to your adult.
- 2. You might be able to spot the rings inside the trunk, which show how much the tree grew each year. Start at the centre and count all the rings. How many are there?



Activity 7. The Mighty Oak.

- 1. Our trail finishes at the Oak Tree (marked number 10 on the map). As you walk to it, count all the different types of tree you pass.
- 2. The Oak tree has an unusual shaped leaf. Can you describe it to your adult?
- 3. Can you spot the seeds of the Oak Tree? What are they called? If one has fallen onto the ground, ask your adult if you can take it home to plant, and grow your own Oak Tree.

