

Outdoor Observations

Plants with leaves all year round are called **evergreens**, and those that shed their leaves during cold or dry seasons are called **deciduous**. Exploring the outdoors is a great way to use the senses (seeing, hearing, touching, and smelling). While looking for the changing leaves in a nearby park or neighborhood, encourage your little one to use their senses and record what they find.

You'll need:

- Observation sheet
- Pencil
- Clipboard
- Optional: magnifying lens

What to do:

- 1. Take clipboard, pencil, observation sheet, and magnifying lens and go for a walk outside in your neighborhood or a nearby park.
- 2. Look for changing leaves from different kinds of plants.
- 3. Have little ones record their observations with drawings or words.
- 4. Once your little one has found something using all four senses have them share what they found. What was their favorite outdoor observation? Why?

Extension: Return to the same place each season to see those changes and make observations. How do the plants and leaves look different? Can you find signs of animals nibbling on leaves or insects laying eggs on leaves?

