

7 My new leaf Friend.



This encourages kids to look at the finer detail to help them understand the uniqueness of nature. It's a good lesson to help them look closer next time they are out in a greenspace and have ownership and connection.

EQUIPMENT:

- Leaves
- Bowl or hat

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Head outside where you can find leaves on the ground. You want to find about 30 leaves
- Get each person to pick out a leaf. Place the rest into the bowl or hat.
- Weave a story that this leaf is their new best friend. They go to zoom meetings together, watch the TV together, do learning online together.
- Ask them to find 5 things that makes their leaf special. There might be different colours, little nibbles, holes/tears, particular shape etc. Do this in silence.
- Ask them to then name their new leafy best friend.
- Introduce their leafy friend to someone else and show them 3 things that makes their leaf special.
- Next step - Tell them that they've had a fight

- with their leafy best friend and all the leaves want to have their own party. Each person will then place their leaf into the hat or bowl.
- Hurrah - their leafy best friend wants to come home. Up end the hat or bowl on a clear surface and ask the kids to find their leafy best friend. Only pick up their leaf if they are 100% sure it's their leaf.
- Get them to say hello, give their leafy best friend a kiss and a cuddle and reunite with it.
- If you're game, then tell them to tear up their leaf. You'll find 90% of kids won't want to. A great lesson that when people look at the details in the bush and become attached, they are less likely to want to destroy natural environments.
- Depending on their age, collect leaves from the same type of tree. I find that even yr 4 children can find their leaf from seemingly very similar leaves.
- Get them to crush the remaining leaves and smell them. Another sensory experience. If you have a lemon scented gum or a lemon myrtle, you're very lucky.