

## ACTIVITIES FOR WILLIAMSTOWN BOTANIC GARDENS

**Task:** Alphabet Tree

**Description:** The book titled 'The Alphabet Tree' by Leo Lionni, is read to the group. The children then search for coloured magnetic letters hidden on branches in the garden. Each of the letter groups form words on a magnetic board.

**Level:** Prep (end of year) or Grade 1 (start of Term 1)

**Outcomes:**

- Understanding of how the natural world fits together (book).
- Understanding how letters can create words and words can create sentences.
- Exploring the gardens.

**Materials:**

- Magnetic boards
- Magnetic letters
- Little sachets for the letters to hang on the tree
- Envelopes with the clues to find the tree ( laminated )
- Storybook : 'The Alphabet Tree' by Leo Lionni
- Alphabet Challenge Page (extra activity)

**Procedure:**

1. Organise a helper to hide magnetic letters (in sachets) in special trees.
  - a. Each Sachet contains colour coded words that form pre-arranged words.
  - b. Place three or four in one tree so that each child has their own sachet if possible.
2. Find a suitable location on one of the lawns for the whole group.
3. Read the book.
4. Break the group into smaller groups.
5. Give each group a magnetic board.
6. Give the clues to where the special word trees are.
7. Find the tree and the words

8. Create words on the magnetic board. (Same coloured letters make a word. (TREES, GROW, HELPS, GIVE )
9. Bring words and children back to big circle and discuss.
10. Children with the same coloured words now group together to build a sentence. Help each other.
  - a. Suggested messages below:  
RAIN HELPS PLANTS GROW  
BUSY BEES LOVE FLOWERS  
BIG TREES GIVE SHADE  
TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME
11. Chat about the messages found in the garden.

**Additional:** The activity could be extended:

- **Alphabet Challenge**
  - The children explore the gardens in groups searching for words for every letter of the alphabet.
  - eg A for ant, B for branch, C for cactus etc
  - Sample page attached
- **Picnic**
  - The activity could end with a picnic if the weather is nice. Remember to take your rubbish home.

# ALPHABET CHALLENGE

A \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

Q \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

V \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

W \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

Y \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

Z \_\_\_\_\_

