I Notice, I Wonder, It Reminds Me of

About:

There is a LOT of cool things out there when we slow down and take a look. With this fun exercise we’ll improve our observation skills while learning more about the nature around us. This is a fun addition to a walk around the block, through a nature trail, or around the perimeter of your outdoor play area.

Objective:

To use Social Emotional Development and NGSS informed practices to help youth explore their self-awareness while understanding more about their environment and how to grow their observation skills.

Age: K-5 Expected time: 10 min – 1 hour

Activity to be done anywhere you can find a blade of grass, leaf or rock:

This lesson plan was adapted from the BEETLES Project.

1. Ask, what are ways we explore? (With our sight, by walkin around, touching things)
2. Let your youth know you’re going to work on their observation skills by exploring together.
3. Pick a natural object such as a leaf or a rock. Stand together while holding the item and observe it together. Explain we’re going to talk about what we SEE together.
   - Model speaking your observations out loud. Here are some examples of observations: “I notice this is yellowish-green in color, oval-shaped and about the size of my thumb, it’s rough in some places and smooth in others..."
   - Encourage your youth to tell you what they see.
4. Share for 30 seconds. Once you’re ready to move on introduce curiosity exploration. Begin to encourage question asking. IE: I wonder why there is a hole there? What questions do they have?
   - Note: the idea is to inspire curiosity, not necessarily gain knowledge. Take the pressure off yourself of knowing everything by not answering any questions you both come up with.
5. Once you’ve asked a few questions introduce connection making. The next statement should start with “it reminds me of” (This green reminds me of a shamrock shake, this circle reminds me of the letter O, etc.) What connections can your little one make?
6. Once you’ve shared all of your observations, celebrate about how much you discovered about your item!
7. Now it’s time to take a walk! As you walk keep an eye out for interesting things to look at. Every few minutes you should stop and pick up something to explore with...
your new observation skills. Remember the 3 prompts: I see, I wonder, it reminds me of.

More ways to explore:

- Take pictures of everything you explored today!
- When you go home, google the questions you came up with and find answers!
- Want a more in-depth lesson plan? Check out the lesson plan on the BEETLES Project page: www.beetlesproject.org/resources/for-field-instructors/notice-wonder-reminds/
- Share your observations on social media and tag Camp Whitcomb/Mason!

Wrap Up:

- What did you learn?
- Did you notice anything that surprised you?
- What was the most interesting thing we found?