

Focus

Botany

EXERCISE 16

Parent Objective

To aid your child's knowledge of, and appreciation for, the natural world.

"...it is also necessary for his psychical life to place the soul of the child in contact with creation, in order that he may lay up for himself treasure from the directly educating forces of living nature"

Dr. Maria Montessori, The Montessori Method



Benevolently Provided by **Judy Laidlaw**

Maria Montessori's Education of the Natural Sciences

Classification of Trees

Exercise 1



Materials:

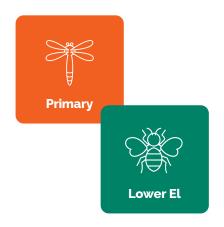
- 1 sheet paper, folded lengthwise to create 2 distinct columns
- Clipboard
- Pencil

Preparation:

Explain to your child that there are only two main types of trees. Some trees are classified as **conifers**. These trees have needle-type leaves that stay green all year round. Conifer trees usually produce seed cones. Other trees are called **deciduous**. The leaves on deciduous trees change color in autumn and fall off in winter. Deciduous trees grow new leaves each year in spring.

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Instructions:

- Invite your child to join you for a walk to look at different trees.
 Suggest a nearby wooded park or neighborhood area.
- Label the top of each column on the paper; one with "conifer" and the other "deciduous." If capable, your child should do the writing. Underline each word. Check marks will be placed beneath the classification names.
- 3. Explain to your child that the clipboard, paper, and pencil will be used to record how many of each type of tree is observed on your walk. Responsibility for recording should be the child's. (If your child is unfamiliar with making "check marks," show how.)
- 4. At the end of your walk, count the number of checkmarks for each classification.

Enjoy the time together!

Optional Extension:

When traveling to other locations, observe as a family if different areas of the country have a greater or lesser number of deciduous or conifer trees.

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