



Primary



Lower EL

Focus

Botany

EXERCISE 17

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



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Judy Laidlaw

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Maria Montessori's Education of the Natural Sciences

Classification of Trees

Exercise 2

Materials:

- Camera
- Printer
- 2 strips paper, each approx. 2"x 6"
- Marker

Preparation:

Explain to your child that there are mainly two kinds of leaves. One kind is attached to its "mother" branch by a single stem, or **petiole**. These leaves are classified as **simple**. Other leaves are made up of a number of leaflets, all attached as a group to the petiole. These leaves are classified as **compound**.



Simple Leaf



Compound Leaf



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Exercise 2

Instructions:

1. Invite your child to take a walk in search of as many different leaves as you can find. Explain that you will take close-up pictures of these leaves rather than remove them from the trees.
Note: This is an excellent opportunity to reinforce respect for nature. "We can learn about nature without taking away from nature."
2. Print the leaf pictures, 1-2 per page. There is no need to use photo paper. If you print more than one picture per page, cut apart.
3. Using the 2 strips of paper and the marker, make Classification labels. If capable, have your child write "**simple**" on one strip, "**compound**" on the other.
4. Randomly spread out the leaf pictures on a table or floor rug. With your child, choose a picture to observe. Together determine if the leaf structure should be classified as "simple" or "compound".
5. After you both determine the leaf classification for a picture, show your child how to place it beneath the correct label in a column.
6. Classify 1-2 more pictures with your child. Once the concept is understood, allow your child to independently complete the classification.

Note:

Following completion of this exercise, save the leaf photographs for use with upcoming Exercise 3.