



Primary



Lower El

Focus

Botany

EXERCISE 18

Parent Objective

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

"...it is also necessary for his psychological 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 3

Materials:

- Pictures of different types of leaves (The same collection of leaf pictures from Exercise 2 may be used. More may be taken and added if desired.)
- Hair comb
- 4 strips of paper, each approx. 2" X 6"
- Marker

Preparation:

Explain to your child that just as people have different characteristics that make them look different from one another, so do all other living things in nature, including leaves. The leaf characteristic to be observed today is its edges. Edges of leaves are typically described as **lobed**, **smooth**, **toothed**, or **wavy**.



Lobed Edge



Smooth Edge



Toothed Edge



Wavy Edge



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Exercise 3

Instructions:

1. Invite your child to randomly spread out the leaf pictures on a table or floor rug.
2. Say to your child, "Run your finger along the bottom part of your ear. Do you know what this part of your ear is called?" (lobe) "Some leaves have parts that stick out much like an earlobe. On some leaves the parts are so deeply notched, they look almost like fingers."
 - *On one of the paper strips write the word lobed. If capable the child should do all writing. Place this strip at one end of the workspace.*
 - *Together observe your different leaf pictures, looking for leaves with lobed or "finger-like" edges.*
 - *Place these in a column beneath the word lobed to classify.*
3. Say to your child, "Run your finger along the edge of a table. How does it feel?" (smooth) "Some leaves have edges that are smooth or straight."
 - *On a 2nd paper strip write the word smooth. Place this strip next to the first to start a 2nd classification column.*
 - *Ask your child to look for pictures of leaves that have smooth edges and to place them beneath the word smooth.*
4. Pass the hair comb to your child and say, "Run your fingers along the teeth of the comb. How does it feel?" (pointy, sharp) "Some leaves have sharp, pointy edges much like the teeth on a comb."
 - *Write the word toothed on a 3rd paper strip and place it to form a 3rd classification column.*
 - *Ask your child to search for pictures of leaves with toothed edges and to classify them accordingly.*



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5. "Sometimes a leaf looks as if it has teeth, but the points are soft, not sharp, and it appears to have little waves along its edges. These leaves are classified as wavy."
 - Write the word wavy on the last paper strip and place it to create a 4th classification column.
 - Together look for pictures of leaves with wavy edges and place them to form this final column.
6. Encourage your child to observe leaves when taking walks or hiking.

Enjoy time spent together.