

# Outdoor Learning @ Singapore Zoo

A seminar on playful experiences with animals and nature

## RECIPE CARDS

Use the strategies and activity ideas found in these cards  
to plan your own learning journey.

Suitable for nursery and  
kindergarten children

Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group



## RECIPE CARD

**APE-RECIATING THE POWER OF OBSERVATION IN PLAY**

by Drizzle Hshieh, Roots &amp; Boots

**KEY MESSAGE & LEARNING POINTS**

Learning and assessment may be enhanced through observation during play. Discover how keen eyes and dramatic play can spark curiosity and facilitate problem-solving skills.

**YOU WILL NEED**

Brown twine, scissors, natural materials (fallen leaves, sticks, stones you can find in the Zoo)

**OPENING**

Using a palm leaf as a prop, participants to take turns and act out, without any verbal cues, what they imagine the leaf can be.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS****1. What is a nest?**

In the wild, orangutans construct a new nest every night to sleep in.

In the Zoo, you may be able to spot the 'nests' which our orangutans have constructed from leaves and other materials. What are some features and materials you can observe? Look at the shapes, sizes, colours and texture of the nests. Discuss why orangutans build their nests this way. Create a "functional" nest.

**2. Play from a different perspective**

Observe the orangutan island at the canopy level and at the ground level.

Identify possible play opportunities for the orangutans. Share your findings!

Design and construct two mini play structures using natural materials. Use pebbles to represent orangutans. Dramatize how they might use and interact with the play structures. Review and reflect on how the designs may be improved.

**3. Meeting Charlie**

Play the mirror game. Imitate what Charlie, the orangutan is doing for two minutes. Share what you think Charlie might be feeling, thinking, seeing and experiencing. What else do you think he needs? Working as a group, design your ideal exhibit for Charlie.

**FUN FACTS**

Orangutans can be found in the tropical rainforests of Borneo and on the island of Sumatra. They spend most of their time in trees.



Wild orangutans make nests with fresh branches, line them with dry twigs and then pad them with soft leaves. Some add a leafy pillow or a roof.



Puzzle feeders challenge orangutans to reach tasty treats in creative ways. Such activities help to maintain their mental fitness and hone their motor skills.

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RECIPE CARD

# MOVIN' AND GROOVIN': AN INTEGRATIVE ARTS EXPERIENCE IN THE WILD

by Lavina Chong & Grace Ter, Wigglepods

## KEY MESSAGE & LEARNING POINTS

Animals can inspire music and movement activities. Explore how to draw inspiration from animal features and behaviour for cooperative learning with the creative use of words, sounds, actions and rhythm.

## YOU WILL NEED

Vocabulary or picture cards

## OPENING

Observe one animal in Australasia. Harvest short and long words with one, two or three syllables. Pick 2 to 4 vocabulary words you have harvested (preferably with different number of syllables). E.g. joey, bounce. Make vocabulary or picture cards based on the words (1 word per card).

## ACTIVITY IDEAS

### 1. Add a song

Select a simple song, preferably with 4 lines. Start by singing the selected song. Then, get children to pick any 4 vocabulary cards. (E.g. Joey x2 Bounce x2)

### 2. Children's Choice

Allow children to make their own sequence using the cards (E.g. Joey Bounce Joey Bounce)

### 3. Add a Rhythm

Get children to chant the words rhythmically. (E.g. Joey Boounce Joey Boounce - short and long beats)

### 4. Let's spice it up: Variation with body percussion

Invite children to use gestures to represent each syllable of a word. Eg the word kangaroo will require 3 claps while the word joey can be signified with 2 taps on the lap.

### 5. Let's spice it up some more: Variation with body actions and movement

Get children to use movement to represent the words (E.g. Swaying of body for Joey and Stomping for Bounce)

## FUN FACTS



Eastern Grey Kangaroo

Kangaroos cannot walk like we do. They hop to get around. They have very powerful hind legs and big feet for hopping.



Cassowary

The cassowary uses its strong casque to push through dense forests without getting hurt.



Goodfellow's Tree Kangaroo

Tree kangaroos have long tails to help them balance in trees. Their strong limbs with rubbery soles enable them to grip branches.

## RECIPE CARD

## P-LEARNING TOGETHER: PLAYING & LEARNING THROUGH SCALY GIANTS

by Ng Shi Ting & Karen Chin, Wildlife Reserves Singapore



### KEY MESSAGE & LEARNING POINTS

Loose parts play can boost social-emotional competence. Try out playful strategies to hone observation and critical thinking skills through paired or group games.

### YOU WILL NEED

Loose parts from nature (fallen leaves, sticks, stones you can find in the Zoo)



### OPENING

In pairs, children imagine a twig or a leaf as something else before passing it on to the next pair. Younger children can enjoy the textures of different natural materials.



### ACTIVITY IDEAS

#### 1. See-Think-Wonder

**SEE** Let's take 30 seconds to look at this animal quietly. What do you see?

**I spy ....** Use your viewfinder to find it! In what ways is this animal different from us?

**THINK** What do you think about what you spotted in the exhibit?

What makes you say that this tortoise is older?

**WONDER** I wonder how this animal protects itself

#### 2. Pair-work with loose parts

In adult-child pairs for younger groups, children can play peek-a-boo with animal images. In peer pairs, older children can build a habitat for an animal of choice using loose parts from nature.

#### 3. Group Creations

Older children can work in groups to create an image of the Komodo dragon or the giant tortoise using natural loose parts. Offer an element of choice and encourage children to check on the animals' physical features as often as they need to. Children may name their creations or imagine what it might say.



### FUN FACTS



**Komodo Dragon**

The Komodo dragon is the world's largest living lizard. It can weigh more than 100 kilograms and grow longer than 3 metres.



**Aldabra Giant Tortoise**

The Aldabra Giant Tortoise can weigh 250 kilograms and its shell can be as long as 1.2 metres.



**African Spurred Tortoise**

This tortoise is named after the spurs or pointed scales found on its forelimbs.

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