

TAPS-NI Progression in Science Skills





Example topic: Outdoor Learning	Primary 1/2 Age 4-6	Activity title: Scavenger sort	
Science skill focus Doing	Curriculum link: Plac What is in my world? (PL3)		

Progression Focus

- Can children gather and sort objects into sets?
- Can children apply criteria for how the sets have been arranged?

Activity

Discuss what sort of objects we might find around the school grounds (grass, twigs, leaves, flowers, stones, litter etc). What do we think there is most of/least of? Where could we find these things? Would they all be in the same place?

Arrange pupils into pairs. Give the instruction that they have 10 minutes to explore within the agreed boundaries and come back with 15 different interesting things. Discuss safety etc. Allow pupils time to explore. After 10 minutes gather everyone together and allow time to show some of the objects that have been brought back. What are they? Where did pupils find them? Which objects are most common? Where could they have come from? etc...

Ask pupils to sort their objects into 2/3 sets/groups. Remind pupils sets could be made according to size, colour, shape, material etc. Can they sort in other ways?

Share finished sorting with the class; what sets did we made? Were there any interesting ones that only one group thought of? Which sets had the greatest number of objects etc?

Adapting the activity

Support: Set specific tasks for pupils to complete, e.g., "Find me some leaves and some twigs". Provide egs "This set is for litter; this set is for leaves; and this set is for stones" etc. **Extension:** Encourage pupils to sub-divide groups if possible, e.g. "Round Leaves" and "Jagged Leaves". Or use a Venn Diagram and identify objects which match 2 criteria. **Other ideas:** Have a set Carroll/Venn diagram to find appropriate materials to put in each section. Sort different objects by setting own criteria, e.g., fruit, food, classroom objects, minibeasts etc.

Questions to support discussion

- What sets did we make? What other sets could we make?
- Could we sort by size/colour/shape etc?
- What is really different about some of the objects?
- Do the objects have anything in common?

Pupil learning indicators

Not yet met: Cannot organise materials into consistent sets or explain criteria for sorting.

Meeting: Can set own headings and use them to sort for at least 2 different sets.

Exceeding: Can sort objects into 3 different sets, or further sub-divide sets by applying other criteria.