

# Parent Information

## (Get To Know Your Neighbourhood)



We hope the activities included will help your child play and explore with more independence as they learn about their '**neighbourhood**'. Your child's neighbourhood is the area that they can explore independently, for a young child that may be your backyard or front yard, for an older child that may be a section of several houses along your street, and for an even older child that may be several streets or a nearby green space.

### **Parent role:**

***Provide clear expectations:*** Let your child know where they can play independently and your expectations. *For example:*

*You may play in the backyard, but not the front yard. You need to tell me when you go outside.*

OR

*You may go play between house 2 and 20, you must be careful crossing the street, and you must tell me when you go outside.*

***Read for non-readers:*** Children still learning to read will need your help with reading instructions, but should be able to complete the activities independently.

### **Child role:**

Children have 3 challenges to inspire them. This week they are challenged to:

***Explore:*** learn about the trees in their 'neighbourhood'

***Create:*** find and plant or tree seed or make a bark rubbing

***Find:*** find a special spot (or sit spot) where they can go regularly and watch nature and animals (birds, ants, and squirrels count).

We hope your child will have fun and that you will be encouraged as they step out and explore independently. If you have questions or feedback please contact us via email or facebook messenger, we would love to hear from you.

*Tandy, Lotus, and Lorenoa*



# Get To Know Your Neighbourhood



Welcome **Neighbourhood Explorers!** Are you ready to learn about the creatures and plants hiding around your home?

Here are 3 challenges to get you started. Turn the page over to find more instructions.

Remember before you explore always **check with an adult**, tell them where you are going, and when you will be back.

We hope you have fun exploring!

*Tandy, Lotus, & Lorena*

## Supplies:

- Tree identification card
- Journal
- Pencil
- Crayons
- White paper
- Soil
- Trees of London Sheets

## You need to find:

- 2 small clean yogurt cups or similar containers
- tree seeds



## Challenge 1: Explore

Go outside and try to identify the trees around your home.

Try to find 5 different types of trees.

What do you notice?



## Challenge 2: Create

Find and plant a tree seed using a recycled container and soil.



OR

Make a tree bark rubbing using the white paper and a crayon.



## Challenge 3: Find

Find a special spot where you can sit and watch the plants and animals



## Grow your own tree

### Seeds



### **Things you will need**

- A **closed** pine cone or other tree seed
- 2 clean yogurt cups, or other small clean recycled containers
- w2 waterproof lids or tray
- 1 plate or tray

### **If you choose a pine cone:**

1. Put the closed pine cone in a warm, dry place until it opens
2. Shake the seeds from the pine cone over the plate
3. Keep the dark colour seeds (light-coloured seeds will not grow)

### **Plant your seeds:**

4. Poke a few small holes in the bottom of the containers
5. Fill the containers with soil
6. Gently pour water onto the soil until it is moist
7. Choose 2 tree seeds
8. Plant one seed in each cup by pressing it lightly into the soil so that it is covered.
9. Put the containers onto a waterproof lid or tray and leave them in a sunny place.
10. Every few days, water the container carefully to keep the soil moist.

**Be patient, trees grow very slowly.**

1



2



3



4



5



## Make a bark rubbing

### **Things you will need**

- Light coloured paper
- Crayons
- Trees with healthy bark

### **Make a rubbing:**

1. Lay the paper against a tree trunk at eye level
2. Rub the flat side of the crayon across the paper
3. As you rub, the pattern of the bark will appear.

**Use different trees and make a 'bark art' collection**



## Trees Commonly Found in London, Ontario



Alternate-leaf dogwood



American beech



American chestnut



American elm



American mountain-ash



Balsam fir



Balsam poplar



Basswood



Bitternut hickory



Black ash



Black cherry



Black gum



Black oak



Black spruce



Black walnut



Black willow



Blue ash



Blue beech



Bur oak



Butternut



Cherry birch



Chokecherry



Common hoptree



Cucumber tree



Eastern flowering dogwood



Eastern hemlock



Eastern red cedar



Eastern white cedar



Eastern white pine



Gray birch



Green/red ash



Hawthorns



Ironwood



Jack pine



Kentucky coffeetree



Largetooth aspen



Manitoba maple



Northern hackberry



Ohio buckeye



Pawpaw



Peachleaf willow



Pin cherry



Pin oak



Red maple



Red mulberry



Red oak



Red pine



Sassafras





Serviceberries



Shagbark hickory



Showy mountain-ash



Shumard oak



Silver maple



Striped maple



Sugar maple



Swamp white oak



Sycamore



Tamarack



Trembling aspen



Tulip tree



White ash



White birch



White oak



White spruce



Yellow birch

(For more information visit <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/tree-atlas/ontario-southwest>)