# 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 rubbingFind: 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 use 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 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 <u>pine cone</u>:

- 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 (3) 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.



#### 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

<u>Balsam fir</u>







Balsam poplar

Basswood









**Bitternut hickory** 

Black ash

Black cherry

Black gum



Black oak

Black spruce

<u>Black walnut</u>

Black willow







Blue ash

Blue beech

<u>Chokecherry</u>

<u>Bur oak</u>

<u>Butternut</u>



Cherry birch





Common hoptree

Cucumber tree









Eastern flowering dogwood

Eastern hemlock

Eastern red cedar

Eastern white cedar



Eastern white pine







Green/red ash



**Hawthorns** 



Ironwood



Jack pine



Kentucky coffeetree



Largetooth aspen









Manitoba maple

Northern hackberry

<u>Ohio buckeye</u>

<u>Pawpaw</u>



Peachleaf willow

Pin cherry



<u>Pin oak</u>



Red maple



Red mulberry

<u>Red oak</u>







Red pine

<u>Sassafras</u>





Serviceberries

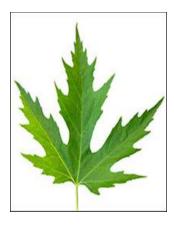
Shagbark hickory



Showy mountain-ash



Shumard oak



Silver maple



<u>Sycamore</u>



Striped maple



<u>Tamarack</u>



Sugar maple



Trembling aspen



Swamp white oak



Tulip tree









White ash

White birch

<u>White oak</u>

White spruce



Yellow birch

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