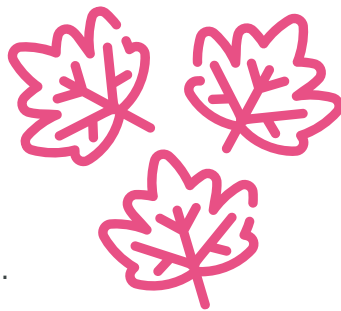# EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

What Can We Collect in Nature?

The collection of natural resources is another way that children can connect with aspects of their usual Kindergarten and Early Learning programs as these materials are often readily available and collected in their outdoor space.

This experience enables children and adults to explore and collect natural materials from your backyard and nature strip or during a local neighbourhood walk.

WHAT YOU NEED:

A free hand/container/ basket/bag to collect your treasures.

If you have a magnifying glass, this could also be taken on your exploration.

WHAT YOU COULD DO:

Look and talk while you are walking and exploring. Take time to collect items along the way.

This natural collection could include leaves, stones, feathers, seedpods, sticks, shells.

At home, you could then examine and sort your collection.

WHAT LEARNING IS HAPPENING?

Maths concepts of sorting and categorising can be developed.

Categorising and sorting items:

- For infants and toddlers'using broad categories such as leaves, stones could be grouped.
- For pre-schoolers, more specific categories could be developed, which could include concepts such as colour, shape and size.

WORDS OR PHRASES TO USE:

- Can you see any treasures we could collect?
- How can we sort this collection?
- Can you crunch these dry leaves?
- How do these different items feel?
- Can we find a big leaf and a small leaf to bring home?
- What is the biggest treasure, and what is the smallest in our basket?

WHERE TO NEXT?

- Children could use their collections to create patterns in an outdoor space in the garden.
- They could order items from smallest to biggest. Which is the biggest leaf or the smallest leaf?
- The collections that have been gathered could be counted.
- Consider heading out after a windy, raining or sunny day, are there different things to collect?
- Children could use the items collected to create as part of a craft experience.
- The items collected could be used as part of their play and/or to tell a story.