

## **Plan: How can I help prepare students and myself for a great day of learning?**

The **Kindergarten Inquiry** program is designed to enrich and expand the Kindergarten program by bringing the Ontario Curriculum to life through a hands-on, learning experience at Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre.

“Using real-life contexts can lead to more effective integration of learning and... can provide opportunities for children to explore concepts and develop and apply skills.” *Kindergarten Curriculum, 2010-11, p. 17*

While a kindergarten field trip will spark the natural curiosity of students “curiosity on its own is not enough” (*Kindergarten Curriculum, 2010-11, p. 15*) and we make every effort to support the inquiry process from initial engagement through exploration, investigation and communication.

### **Curriculum Connections:**

- [Kindergarten Curriculum p. 15](#)

### **Some guiding questions to support effective field trip planning:**

- How does kindergarten inquiry integrate into your classroom program?
- Is there a particular classroom learning experience you are looking to build upon (e.g., “We have been collecting data and using it in concrete graphs” or “We have been wondering why the leaves change colour in fall?”)
- Do my students respond better when we begin our day with a more teacher-guided exploration or with self-guided learning centres?

### **Possible Pre-Trip Experiences:**

- A community/playground walk to notice and wonder natural occurrences in the school community
- Begin a Know, Wonder, Learn (KWL) chart to bring with you to Forest Valley to guide our inquiry
- Begin a classroom inquiry that could be further investigated further at Forest Valley based on a key wondering from the students (e.g. Where does the water go after it rains? Why do the leaves change colours? Where do insects come from? Where do animals or birds live? How does a tree grow?)
- Engage students in collecting natural objects that can be used in classroom and/or outdoor learning centres (e.g. natural sculptures, adding rocks in the block centre, and using natural materials for math manipulatives)
- Follow these links to find more ideas and research to support inquiry learning and including the natural environment as part of the daily routine of kindergarten:

[K to 2 Connections](#)

[Learning Environments](#)

[How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years](#)

[Kindergarten Matters: Intentional Play-Based Learning](#)

[Natural Curiosity](#)

- Subscribe to [Forest Valley’s YouTube Channel](#) and watch our [Forest Valley Kindergarten Learning Back at School](#) playlist for more ideas to support inquiry and outdoor learning
- Reading books related to the natural world (Examples below are available to borrow from the Forest Valley Library). To borrow books please contact Forest Valley OEC ([ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca) or 416-395-5110)



**TDSB Web Resources** (note, these are only be accessible through a TDSB computer):

- [TDSB's Virtual Library.](#)