

Reflect: We Had a Great Trip at Forest Valley...Now What?

“Learning does not end with presentation but rather with reflection, reflexivity, and action. As a function of learning, learners need to position themselves differently in the world: business ought not to go on as usual.” (Harste, 2001, p. 15)
[Pedagogical Documentation Revisited, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Capacity Building, 2015](#)



A field trip to Forest Valley should not end with getting on the bus and going back to the classroom. In order to complete the learning cycle, please engage your students in a learning conversation about the observations that were made during the field study.

If you, your students or Forest Valley Staff made artwork, took notes or photographs of your learning, **share** them, **talk** about them and **make a new plan of action!** Information on accessing Google Drive can be found on the Frequently Asked Questions section of our website (<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/forestvalley/>).

Guiding Questions to Extend the Learning

- “What did you observe?”
- “What connections can you make to our learning goal?”
- “How do you know you met the success criteria?”
- “What do you still wonder?”
- “Now what?”

Please send photos, videos or written artefacts that document the learning back in the classroom and we will feature them (if you are willing) on our website and at our Open House to help other teachers see how to connect their outdoor learning back in the classroom! Samples of student learning can be sent to ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca or via courier to Forest Valley OEC, Route NW11.

Possible Follow-up Activities for Kindergarten

- A community/playground walk to notice and wonder natural occurrences in the school community
- Continue a Know, Wonder, Learn (KWL) chart to sustain the inquiry and document the learning

- Sustain the inquiry about the natural environment by continuing to explore the questions that the students were not yet able to answer at Forest Valley (e.g. Why are there more critters at Forest Valley than at our school? Where do the birds go when it is cold? How can we take care of trees?)
- Investigate the similarities and differences between the school yard and Forest Valley
- Collaborate with [Eco Schools](#) to improve outdoor learning at your school
- Build bird feeders out of recycled materials
- Learn how to grow plants in and outside of the classroom
- Use some of the ideas from Forest Valley to bring some learning centres outside to sustain the inquiry
- 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 or 416-395-5110)



- **[TDSB Web Resources](#)** (note, these are only be accessible through a TDSB computer):
[TDSB's Virtual Library](#)