



Campbell Creek Science Center

Time Outside Together (TOTs): Trees

Resources to explore the natural world with children under five.



Greet a Tree

Find a tree in your neighborhood park, along a local trail, or even in your backyard.

- **Listen** as you stand next to the tree. What do you hear?
- **Touch** the trunk. How does it feel?
- **Sniff** its bark. What can you smell?
- **Look** up at the branches. What do you see?

Does the tree have any leaves? Does it have needles?

Some trees lose their leaves in the fall and open new leaves in the spring. Other trees, like the spruce, have needles and keep them all year long, even in the winter.

Be a Tree

1. Stand tall like the **trunk** of a tree. The trunk of a tree keeps it standing straight.
2. Hold out your arms like **branches**. Branches hold leaves and needles up in the air toward the sunlight.
3. Open up your fingers like **leaves**. Leaves and needles turn sunlight into food for the tree!
4. Touch your skin. Trees have “skin” too. It’s called **bark**. Bark protects the inside of the tree from weather, bugs, and things that might make it sick.
5. Stomp down your feet like **roots**. Roots hold the tree in the ground and help the tree get water and other nutrients it needs to grow.

