GREENBURGH — WEEK 6

Week 6: Senses

Exploring Nature Through Senses

Station Setup

At each table station (shared by a small group of 4–5 kids), set up the following:

- The Paper Plate Base: One 10–12 inch paper plate per child.
- Construction Paper: Gray, green, blue, brown, and other colors.
- The Adhesive: Glue sticks, liquid glue, and rolls of tape shared in the center of the table.
- The Cutting & Drawing Tools: Scissors and markers/crayons for each child.
- The Foraged Treasures: A shared tray containing a small selection of fallen natural materials (leaves, twigs, pine needles, bark, seed pods, etc.).
- Note: Keep the natural material supply controlled—each child only needs about 3–5 pieces for their habitat!

Lesson Plan

1. Introduction & Hook (5 Minutes)

- Introduce Yourself: "Hi everyone! My name is Avika, and I am so excited for our activity today."
- World Elephant Day: "Today is World Elephant Day! Who can tell me something they know about elephants?" (Take 2–3 quick answers).
- Explain: "Elephants are amazing animals, but just like us, they need a home where they can find everything they need to survive."
- Discussion Question: "What do you think an elephant needs in its home?" (Guide them toward: food, water, shelter/shade, space, and family).
- The Challenge: "Today, you're going to build a home for an elephant. You're going to create an elephant and then design a habitat where it can live."

2. The Instruction Walkthrough (5 Minutes)

- Demonstrate: Hold up your finished example and explain: "Your paper plate is going to become your elephant's habitat. First, you'll make an elephant out of paper. Then you'll fill the rest of your plate with everything your elephant needs."
- Show Examples:
- Grass/plants: Food
- Trees: Shade and shelter
- Water: Drinking

- Rocks: Part of the landscape
- Other elephants: Family
- Explain Natural Materials: "We'll also have some natural materials that you can use to add texture to your habitat. You only need a few!"

3. Creating the Elephant & Habitat (27 Minutes)

Walk the kids through the steps altogether:

- Step 1 (The Paper Elephant): Have kids grab gray construction paper and markers from the front table. They draw and cut out their own elephant (or an elephant family) and glue it onto their paper plate base.
- Step 2 (The Outdoor Forage): Take the kids outside for 5 minutes to gather natural supplies (remind them to only pick items already on the ground). Guide them to select carefully:
- For shelter & trees: Small twigs, bark, and large leaves.
- For food & ground cover: Grass, pine needles, or petals.
- For landscape details: Tiny pebbles or seed pods.
- Step 3 (Building the Habitat Landscape): Back at the table, kids use colored paper cutouts to add landscape elements like a blue paper watering hole or green paper bushes.
- Step 4 (Natural Touches): Kids glue their gathered nature finds onto the plate to add texture and dimension to their habitat (e.g., leaves for canopy shade, pine needles for tall grass, twigs for branches, or bark for rocks).
- Instructor Check-In (Ask as they work):
- 1st/2nd Grade Prompt: "Where does your elephant get water? Where can it rest when it's hot?"
- 3rd/4th Grade Prompt: “How does your habitat help your elephant survive? What would happen if it ran out of food or water?"

4. Reflection & Display (7 Minutes)

- The Reflection Question: "I want you to share the elephant habitat you’ve created and tell us one thing you included that helps your elephant survive in the wild."
- Future Steps & Display: "When you take your habitat home, place it somewhere special. Whenever you look at it, remember that protecting real spaces in nature helps keep wild animals like elephants safe!"

5. Clean-Up (3 Minutes)

- Collect remaining construction paper, markers, and glue bottles.
- Have the kids sweep stray leaves and twigs back into the central shared trays.
- Wipe up any glue spills and move the finished artwork to a designated drying area.