

Nature is a great teacher! Try this outdoor activity – it’s safe, fun, and educational. Project Learning Tree® activities build children’s creative and critical thinking skills while they learn what the environment needs to remain healthy and sustainable.

HAVE SEEDS, WILL TRAVEL

Most plants reproduce using systems that include flowers and seeds. In this outdoor investigation, children observe, collect, and classify plant seeds.

Gather a collection of seeds from a wooded area. Try using one or more of the following methods:

- Drag an old blanket or fuzzy cloth behind you on the ground.
- Place a large, old, wool sock over hands or shoes to see what you can pick up.
- Wear bracelets made of masking tape (sticky side out), to hold the seeds you find.

Have children examine their seed collections and invent a system for sorting or classifying them. Explain that have developed many different methods of seed dispersal, to ensure the success of their species. Some seeds the help of other external variables to disperse.

The three examples below represent only a few of the many ways that seeds can be dispersed. Conduct your own research to explore more -OR- consider challenging children to design their own seeds, complete with specialized dispersal mechanisms. To make a functioning model, try using a dried lima bean with different art materials (feathers, toothpicks, cardboard, cotton balls, string, rubber bands, etc.) to design a new type of seed. What dispersal method will it use?

Explore and Review:

- How do a seed’s shape and size affect its dispersal?
- Why is it important for seeds to be dispersed in different ways?
- What are three mechanisms of seed dispersal?
- Can some seeds travel farther than others?

CONNECT KIDS TO NATURE!

Encourage your child’s school to incorporate outdoor learning by connecting with your local PLT program.

Visit plt.org/yourstate

3 METHODS OF SEED DISPERSAL

Directions:

Fill in the vowel blanks (a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y) to decipher the seed examples.

BY ANIMALS



___ C ___ RN

BY WIND



S ___ M ___ R ___

BY WATER



CR ___ NB ___ RR ___

Visit plt.org for more!