



Session 2.2: Sense of place Level K-2

In today's activity, your child will continue to build their sense of place within their backyard by making a Camera Journal with their special "Camera Lens". Your child's will use their observation skills, and then create an expressive writing or drawing in response to what they observed.

Before activity starts, help your child review what is **observation**:

Tell your child: **Observation** is important in science. Scientists use observation to collect and record data, which enables them to make hypotheses and theories. Making observations from a single spot helps you to recognize those exceptional moments as you take the time, space and effort to enjoy a special place, observing both the large and small details of the area.

Materials needed:

- Pencils
- Crayons
- 1 Hula hoop (If you don't have one, use string or rope to make a circle on the ground to define a small area)
- 1 [Camera Journal](#) (print and staple, see attached pictures at the end, or click on this link to download)

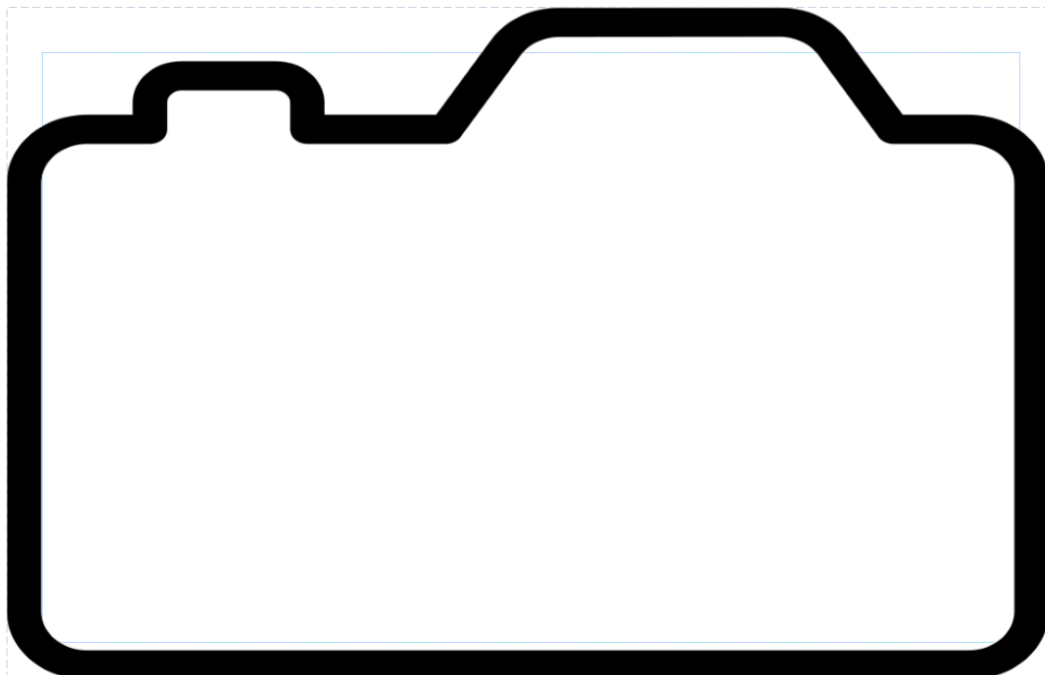
Activity:

1. Explain to your child that today they will be a "photographer" and will have a chance to observe a small area in the backyard and make their own [Camera Journal](#) with their special "Camera Lens". The "lens" is the Hula hoop or rope.
2. Take your child outside in the yard, walk around the area for 10-15 minutes and then ask them to select an area that is "special" to them. Once they decide what is their "favorite" place, ask them to place their hula hoop or rope/string to define their space. Tell them to use their observation skills and really look in depth at the area within their hoop.
3. Ask your child to pretend to take a picture with their paper-made camera and "capture" their special space either by drawing it and/or writing about it. Encourage your child to be creative and to describe their space in a way that they enjoy it the best. (Ex: a poem, a song, a drawing, a detailed description, or a story)
4. At the end of their 10-15 minute exploration time, let your child finish their Camera Journal, then give them a chance to share their special place with you and other family members.
5. Use these questions to start a discussion about the place your child chooses.

- a. Why is this place special to you?
- b. What objects exist in this place that you choose? (Ex: rock, plant, animal)
- c. Could you read the detailed description/sharing the drawing with us?

****While getting outside is ideal, if you are unable to get outside, you and your child may observe nature from a distance through a window. Another adaptation could be that they can explore the home for new aspects they may not have noticed before****

Camera Journal:



A thick black outline of a folder with a handle and a tab. The folder is oriented vertically. Inside the folder, there are six horizontal lines for writing.

A thick black outline of a folder with a handle and a tab. The folder is oriented vertically. Inside the folder, there are three horizontal lines for writing.