SEEK2LEARN Montessori Nursery

Sorting Living and Non-Living Things Experiment

Materials Needed:

1. Collection of objects from the environment (e.g., toy animals, rocks, plants, leaves, pencils, keys, etc.)
2. Large piece of paper or poster board
3. Markers or crayons
4. Tape or glue

Procedure:

1. Begin by explaining to the children the difference between living and non-living things. Emphasize that living things can grow, reproduce, and respond to stimuli, while non-living things do not possess these characteristics.
2. Show the children a variety of objects collected from the environment, including both living and non-living things.
3. Together, create a large sorting chart on the piece of paper or poster board. Divide the chart into two sections labeled "Living Things" and "Non-Living Things."
4. Encourage the children to examine each object and decide whether it is living or non-living. Discuss the characteristics of each object and why it belongs in its respective category.
5. As the children identify each object, have them place it in the appropriate section of the sorting chart.
6. Once all the objects have been sorted, review the chart with the children and discuss any objects that may have been difficult to categorize.
7. Encourage the children to ask questions and engage in discussion about the characteristics of living and non-living things.

Discussion Points:

- Living things: Plants, animals, insects, humans. They grow, reproduce, respond to stimuli, and require food, water, and air to survive.
- Non-living things: Rocks, toys, keys, pencils. They do not grow, reproduce, or respond to stimuli. They may be made of materials that were once part of living things (e.g., wood from a tree), but they do not exhibit characteristics of life.

Extension Activity:

- Take a nature walk and encourage children to collect more objects from the environment. Repeat the sorting activity using the newly collected objects.
- Discuss the importance of caring for living things and respecting the environment.

Through this experiment, children can develop their observation skills and critical thinking abilities as they learn to differentiate between living and non-living things. It's a hands-on and interactive way to explore basic concepts of biology and environmental science.