

2BParks Environmental Education

November 2012

E-paper by RCDI – Development and Innovation Network

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In November, it is time to go back to the Nature Reserve of Santo André and Sancha Lagoons to learn more about the Fall. This article summarizes the second day of 2BParks environmental education activities at the Monte do Paio, the Environmental Interpretation Centre of the Nature Reserve.

The children are very excited by the time they arrive at Monte do Paio. The sky is grey, but the children's joy is always colourful.



The first group exercise

The yard is again the starting point: the children, the teachers, the 2BParks educator and the Nature Reserve staff form a big circle that occupies the whole yard. It is the first group exercise and it is both used to remember what was taught in October and give some hints on what the children will be learning today. Two topics are highlighted: the dew and the forest litter.

The time has now come to go to the pine forest and look for the forest litter. This time, the children were divided into groups beforehand. All of them have a little personalized round paper on their lapel with big letters A, B, C painted on.

The long walk through the pine forest begins. Each group will observe the trees, the bushes and the soil.



Walking into the pine forest



Observing the soil

After walking for a while, the children are gathered around a picnic table in the middle of the pine forest to think and structure a little bit what they have

already discovered and what they might still find out.



The pine cones



Questions & answers



The "meeting" in the pine forest



The little bag where the items collected are put

Just like in October, today the children will also collect several items that they will find along the way and that will be used for some of the afternoon activities. The 2BParks educator asks why is the forest litter important to the fauna and flora of the Nature Reserve. She also asks why do some of the tree leaves fall. The children start interpreting the nature using their imagination and logic.

Meanwhile, it is lunch time. Back to the yard, each child gets her lunch from their little backpacks. French fries are shared and sweets exchanged.

There is a lot of curiosity about the "little animals" that live in the forest litter and thus the magnifying glass becomes a much disputed object.



The lunch

In the afternoon, three activities take place simultaneously in three different rooms, just like in October. But all the activities are new.

In one room, a slideshow of the Nature Reserve is presented by the staff of the protected area. There are images of the fauna and flora and also of the anual opening of the lagoon to the sea that some of the children have witnessed already.



The slideshow



The questions

In another room, the children learn to make a paper windmill. In October they learned how to play with the "air in movement", today they learn that the wind can also produce energy. There is no hesitation as to which colour to chose to make the paper windmill: pink for girls and blue for boys.



How to make a windmill?



The girl's paper windmills



And the boy's

As soon as the paper windmills are ready, the children run to the yard to try them. And the result is that both pink and blue paper windmills do work.



Pink windmills in action



Blue windmills in action



The forest litter

In the third room, some experiments take place. The children observe the bits and pieces of forest litter collected in the morning and try to guess what it is composed of. In another experiment the children learn what is the dew and why it sometimes appears on a cold morning. They learn that it is possible to "make" dew out of an empty can, some ice and a glass of water from the fridge.



The dew

After all the three groups worked in the three rooms, another day of 2BParks environmental education activities ends at Monte do Paio.

The next visit to the Nature Reserve will be in December. It will be a sum up day, where a group from one school will show to a group of another school how they have elaborated on what they have learned in their two previous visits to the Nature Reserve.

Grândola, Portugal, November, 2012

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