

# SunSmart shade tree



## VELS Level 1

### VELS Domains

- Health and Physical Education
- Interpersonal Development
- The Arts
- English
- Communication
- Thinking Processes

This activity can be used to start discussions about the importance of trees in our environment for shelter and shade (for animals and humans). Link the shade with sun protection.



It can also be a pastoral care activity to engage each child and help them see that they are a special part of the one group.

The focus you choose will determine the class discussion.

### Materials

- Large image of tree with many branches OR real tree branches for a class display
- Leaf templates

### Instructions

Go for a walk around the school environment to look for shady trees.

- Are these nice shady spots for people to play under? Let's remember where these shady spots are so you can play there at playtimes.
- What is helping to provide the shade?
- How do the leaves sit on the branches?
- Who do you think uses this tree?
- How does the tree help us?
- What are the different parts that make the whole tree?

Explain that they will each be contributing to their class shade tree – one leaf alone can't help provide shade or shelter, but many leaves together can make a real difference. Each part adds value to the whole.

Ask each child to decorate a leaf – either their own design or use the templates provided. They may like to add their name to the leaf, their wish for the year, what they really like about themselves, what they would like to work on, how a tree helps the environment, how a tree is valuable to people and animals... Your focus will help determine this.

Create a class display and refer back to this.