

Explore Plants Around You



How do the plants in your neighborhood impact the air around you? Your child observes and does simple activities to learn more.

GO OUTSIDE

- With a box of crayons or a rainbow of paint chips, race outdoors with your child to see how many of the colors you can match to plant parts in 10 minutes. Record what you find with Plum's Photo Hunt app, a camera, or a notebook. **Ask:** *Which parts are green? Which parts aren't?* Point out that a plant's green parts (like its leaves and stem) take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen—which humans and other city animals need to breathe. The non-green parts have other jobs: protecting the plant (bark), providing it with nutrients and water (roots), and reproducing (flowers, fruits, seeds, nuts).
- Plants don't just give off oxygen—they release water vapor into the air too. On a warm, sunny day, wrap plastic bags around the leaves of trees, flowers, vines, and shrubs. Seal the baggies with tape or twist ties. Leave them on the plants. Don't pick the leaves! Play tag or chase games to work up a sweat. After about 20 to 30 minutes, compare your *perspiration* (sweat) with plant *respiration* (release of water from the plant leaves). Point out that any water in the bags came from the leaves of the plant. If you can, look again in another 30 minutes. How much water is in the bags now? Be sure to remove all the bags when you're done.

VISIT pbskids.org/plumlanding

The Brick-Eating Ivy Mystery

In this video, Gabi and Oliver explore whether ivy really can destroy buildings and cause them to collapse.

Outdoor Family Fun with Plum App

This app gets families outdoors exploring the world. Every day, the app offers five outdoor missions to get everyone thinking and talking about nature and the science that's all around us.

READ

The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle

by Lynne Cherry (ages 6–10) Follow the path of a seed of a mangrove as it takes root in a lagoon in the Caribbean Sea.

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown (ages 4–7)

A story about a boy who decides to take care of a struggling garden.



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