

# PLANT PATTERNS

## ACTIVITY TO DO AT HOME



### DISCOVER THE REPEATED BRANCHING PATTERN OF PLANTS.

What can we notice about the parts of different plants? What patterns can we see in the parts of trees and small plants?

**TIME** 15 minutes

### MATERIALS

- A tree to observe, or a photo of a tree
- A small live plant with stem, branches, and leaves, such as parsley or cilantro
- A few leaves with veins that are easy to see
- Paper to draw on
- Pencils or crayons (not markers)

### DIRECTIONS

1

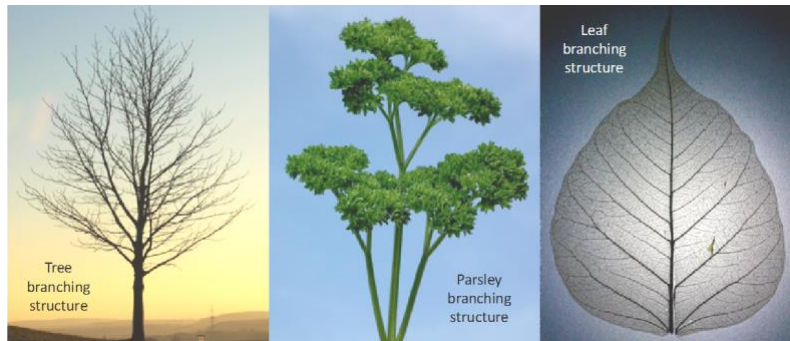
#### SET UP

If you are using the tree photo, print it out or display it on your device. Gather the other materials. Set up a space where your child can draw.

2

#### GOAL

Your child will **observe** different plants and **keep track** of what they notice. Your child will **investigate** the plants and **look for patterns**. Your child may **notice** that trees, small plants, and even leaves have branching patterns.



3

#### EXPLORE

Go outside with your child and look at a tree, or show your child the photo of a tree. Point out the trunk, branches, and leaves. Your child will **notice** that the branches spread out from the trunk.

4

#### EXPLORE

Ask your child to close their eyes and draw a tree in the air. The trunk rises up and then the branches spread out. Then have your child draw a tree on paper. This is a great way to **keep track** of what your child **observed**!



5

### EXPLORE

Give your child a small plant to **observe**, such as a piece of parsley or cilantro. Your child can hold the small plant and **notice** its stem, branches, and leaves. Your child can draw a picture of the small plant right next to the tree they drew. Your child can **compare** how the tree and the plant are the same and how they are different.

6

### EXPLORE

Give your child a leaf to **observe**. Your child can hold the leaf and **investigate** the veins in the leaf. Ask your child to draw a picture of the leaf right next to the small plant they drew. Ask your child, *What do you notice about all three plant drawings?*

7

### SHARE

Encourage your child to **share what they noticed** about the tree and the small plant. Point out that both the tree and the small plant have a stem, but the tree's stem is called a trunk. Help your child **notice** that, for both plants, branches grow from the stems and leaves grow from the branches.

Look at your child's drawings. Ask your child, *How does the leaf design compare with the tree design? What patterns can you see?*



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