

Identify your tree...

***This activity should be done with an adult. You must make sure that the child does not know the name of the tree before they visit it. You might want to cover the plaque near the tree until the child identifies it.**



Activity (Directed towards adult):

- Bring the child to the Tamarack tree.
- Have the child sit in front of the tree and look at the different characteristics of it. Ask the child to list the distinguishing features of the tree. (*Drawing some of the features may help.)

Probing Questions:

- Does the tree have leaves or needles?
- Are all the leaves or needles on the tree?
- What is the bark like? Rough? Smooth?
- Is there fruit on the tree?
- Are there cones on the tree?
- How tall is the tree?

-After the child has a list of the different characteristics, ask him or her to look at trees around them. What makes this specific tree different from the others?

- Use the *Field Guide To Trees*, to identify what kind of tree it is. The student should look at different trees and match the characteristics to their list. By looking at the pictures, and features, and through using deductive reasoning, the child should be able to identify what the tree is.

-Finally, ask the student to explain what led them to their conclusion.

Materials:

- Paper and pencil
- National Audubon Society Field Guide To Trees: Eastern Region*
by, Elbert Luther Little
- *Crayons, colored pencils, or markers