POP UP LESSON- Observing Colors in the Garden
2018 School Garden Conference – URI
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The following activity goes by many names and can be found in an curriculum from Project Learning Tree, EEI Learn About Forest, Lifelabs to name a few. It is a great go to activity that is easy to replicate with minimal supplies and preparation. Like all good educators, I always have a few things in my “backpack” that I can pull from if I have extra time or plans change last minute.

**Supplies:** Crayons, paint chips, color wheel or any colorful items you have.

**Science Skills:** Observing, organizing, communicating

**Objective:** Have youth explore the garden/habitat and observe the multitude of colors present by conducting a scavenger hunt for colors.

**Directions:**
- Divide youth into pairs or teams.
- Give each pair/team a set of colors (this could be just 1-2 colors or a box of 8 crayons..)
- Have youth search an assigned area for any of the colors for 5-10 minutes
- Youth then organize and share their findings with others.
  - Can they identify any of the items they collected?
  - Do other teams with same color have different items?
  - Where some colors more of a challenge? If so why?
  - Is everything Green or Brown? (Might happen in early spring/winter)
- Clean up
  - Compost – can introduce concepts
  - Will they use for a journal/art project such as a mobile in the classroom

**Things to think about:**
- What group size works best for ages/developmental stages
- How safe is the area?
- Will they be allowed to pick? (May demonstrate how to collect a leaf/flower)
- Challenge groups with shades of a color like green. You can use paint chips or look at a box of 64 crayons. How many blues, greens..?
- Adjustment for colorblind: think about how you can use other senses such as touch.

Rainbow Chips: Video from Lifelabs  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxbP153XBfQ