

# Connecting Kids to Nature

Nature is a great teacher! Try this outdoor activity - it's safe, fun, and educational. Project Learning Tree® activities build children's creative and critical thinking skills while they learn what the environment needs to remain healthy and sustainable.

## What's the Value of that Tree?

Trees do more than provide products such as fruits and wood. They also improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and pollution, reduce flood risks due to rainfall, and provide energy savings by reducing the need for heating and cooling.

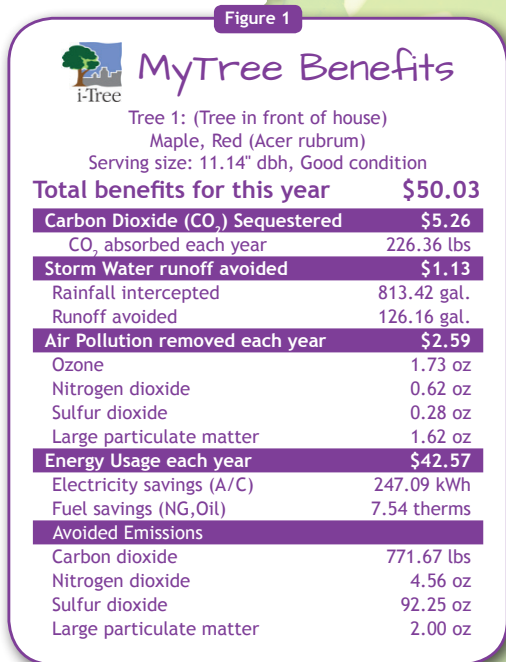
Calculate the dollar value of trees using **i-Tree MyTree** - a free online tool by the US Forest Service.



Take children outside to an area with trees. Choose a few trees, identify their species, and measure their circumference (see photo).

Next, go to <https://mytree.itreetools.org/> and follow the instructions to produce a simple "nutrition-style" label that shows a tree's benefits (see Figure 1).

**Hint!** If you don't know the tree species, start by completing the activity "Name that Tree" available at [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org).



Complete the Tree Value Chart below and reflect:

- Why is it important to care for trees?
- How does the value of one tree compare to the value of other trees?
- Do trees with a larger circumference provide greater values? Why do you think that might be?

### Tree Value Chart

Common Tree Name	Circumference	Notes On Tree Health	Dollar value

#### Make Learning Fun!

Encourage your child's school to incorporate learning outdoors.

For more activity ideas and materials:

- Attend a PLT workshop, [www.plt.org/state-network/](http://www.plt.org/state-network/)
- Visit [shop.plt.org](http://shop.plt.org)



Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)