

Dear Parents,

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources loans resources trunks to preschools and schools - large plastic containers filled with supplemental items to enhance our lessons. Additionally, all items are correlated to the Illinois Early Learning Standards. One of the trunks available for loan is the Tree Trunk; it includes many items that will help us learn about trees, forests, and forestry jobs. Books, posters, videos and DVDs, lumber samples, tree seeds, leaves, forestry tools, and activities are among the contents of the trunk. Moreover, the Tree Trunk is closely related to our classroom project and engagement with Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago! We are thrilled to learn how to measure trees, how to tell the age and differentiate the tree types only by looking at the leaves; we want to learn what trees give to other living things and people, how to care for and protect them, and much more!

## TREE TRUNK FACTS

Did you know that the *oldest living thing on the Earth* is a tree? Yes, the Bristlecone pine in the U.S is believed to be 4,600 years old. The flowering shrubs called Creosote Bushes in the Mojave Desert, one of the oldest shrubs, can grow to 50 feet (15 meters) in diameter. It is estimated that it started from a seed nearly 12,000 years ago. Prior to the discovery of ancient bristlecone pines, the world's record for longevity went to the magnificent giant sequoia of the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Although it may fall short of the world's oldest, the giant sequoia has the undisputed record for the *world's most massive living thing*.

Tiny Tot Junior Kindergarten

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