

## Materials Needed:

- Samples of different tree bark (collected safely from the ground) OR clear pictures of various tree barks
- Plain white paper
- Construction paper (optional)
- Crayons (especially brown, gray, black, with paper peeled off some for rubbings)
- Letter cards or magnetic letters: T, R, E, B, A, K
- A simple picture book or short poem about trees (e.g., "Whose Tree is This?" by Stephen Krensky, or a simple printed poem)
- Pencil or marker

## Lesson Activities:

### 1. Introduction: Talk about Trees! (5 mins)

Ask your student: "What do you know about trees? What's on the outside of a tree trunk?" Introduce the word "bark". Say it together: B-ark! Explain that bark is like the tree's skin, protecting it.

### 2. Exploring Bark Textures (10 mins)

Present the different bark samples or pictures. Let your student touch the real bark (if available). Ask: "How does this one feel? Is it rough? Smooth? Bumpy? What colors do you see?" Introduce descriptive words. If using pictures, ask them to describe what they *think* it would feel like.

### 3. Letter and Word Fun: TREE BARK (10 mins)

Introduce the letters: T, R, E, B, A, K. Say their names and sounds. Use letter cards or magnets to build the word "TREE". Sound it out: T-R-EE. Clap the one syllable. Now build the word "BARK". Sound it out: B-AR-K. Clap the one syllable. Practice reading both words.

### 4. Reading Time! (5-10 mins)

Read the selected simple book or poem about trees or bark aloud. Point to pictures as you read. Ask simple questions like: "What did the bark feel like in the story?" or "What animal lived in the tree?"

### 5. Bark Art: Rubbings and Drawings (10-15 mins)

**Option 1 (Bark Rubbings):** Place a piece of plain paper over a real bark sample. Take a crayon (paper peeled off, use the side) and rub it firmly over the paper. Watch the bark's texture appear! Try different barks and colors.

**Option 2 (Drawing):** If you don't have real bark, have your student draw a tree trunk and try to make the bark look rough or bumpy using crayons.

On their artwork, help them write or trace the words "tree" and "bark".

### 6. Wrap-up (3 mins)

Review the words learned: tree, bark. Look at the artwork created. Ask: "What was your favorite part about learning about tree bark today?" Praise their effort and curiosity!