

Family Explore: NATURE

Exploring nature with children



Helping Children Notice & Explore NATURE

Nature is waiting just outside your door. Nature and natural materials are full of opportunities for exploration and conversation.

What kinds of living things do you find? Maybe trees, ferns, flowers, leaves. What kinds of creatures do you see? Maybe bugs, or spiders, or birds, or squirrels or even cats and dogs. What do you notice about the weather? How does the sun feel on your face? What does the rain sound like? What is the wind doing to the leaves in the trees? As you talk with your child about nature, you are helping them **Develop and Contribute Ideas** to a conversation. Sharing ideas with you now will help children participate in learning discussions in school.

Encourage your child to **Notice Details** in natural materials. Noticing and exploring details helps children to focus and think. When children can **Focus Attention**, they will be able to learn more from their teachers.

- *Look at this leaf. Do you see the drops of water on it? I wonder where the water came from?*

Support your child to make connections between the details they find and other ideas or objects. You can share your ideas as well. When children have practice **Making Connections**, it will help them connect what they know to the new things they learn in school.

- *Do you see the white stripes in the purple flowers? Those look like fairies to you? How interesting! I think it looks like the flower is wearing a scarf.*

