

Spring Nature Activities

The weather is getting nicer, and nature is waking up all around us! It's a really exciting time to explore the world around us! Below you'll find activities to encourage your child's innate interest in the natural world that you can do outdoors and some you can do inside.

Nature walk activities: *If you're able to get outside for a walk, whether in a conservation area or just around your neighborhood, here are some fun activities to do with your child/children.*

- Visit the same area on a regular basis (your yard, a local trail, or along the walk to the bus stop) and look to see how spring is changing things. Are buds growing on the trees or bushes? Do you see any new plants pushing up from the ground? Then, as the flowers bloom, look inside. What do you see?
- Bring a bucket or bag on your walk for all the treasures your children will want to collect.
- Turn over a log and see what you find crawling around underneath.
- Nature bracelet: put a piece of packing or duct tape on your child's wrist, sticky side out, and let them put their nature treasures there.



Indoor Activities: *When it's too wet out, or your allergies are too bad, or you can't or don't want to go outside for whatever reason, here are some activities you can do inside to explore nature.*

- Put a dried bean and a wet paper towel in a Ziploc bag and tape it to the window. Watch as the bean sprouts!
- Give your child flower or plant catalogs to cut up and create a collage of their dream flower garden.
- Dissect flowers: pick flowers from your garden, or get a bunch at the grocery store, and let your child pull them apart (or, for older children, cut them) and explore them with a magnifying glass.



Spring Nature Books:

- Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring, Pak
- Mud, Ray
- The Hike, Farrell
- Hold This! Scoppettone
- Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt, Messner
- A Seed is Sleepy, Aston
- And Then It's Spring, Fogliano
- Plant the Tiny Seed, Matheson