

Nature Moments – make a nature calendar







Outdoor/Indoor Activity

Curriculum: Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Wellness

Materials: calendar (or make your own), pencil crayons, camera (optional)

Instructions:

Take time to explore your nearby nature to discover seasonal changes in your neighbourhood or nearby natural area. What has changed? Tree leaves emerging, plants flowering, birds migrating, insects appearing, are a few nature moments you may observe. Note the date, draw a picture of your observation or take a picture and add your observation to your nature calendar.

OUR CLASSROOM NATURE CALENDAR	March 06	March 16	March 18	March 21	March 23	March 27	OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC DISCOVERIES
WEATHER - Snow on ground - Snow - Rain - Chinook Winds	Snow on ground in school field	Chinook Winds		Snow storm			
WATER - Ice - Melting - Open Water - Puddles		Melting on sidewalk & yard	Open water on pond				
INSECTS - Ants - Lady Bugs - Snow Fleas - Spiders	Snow Fleas on top of snow				Spider under leaflet		
POPLAR TREES - Buds - Catkins - Seeds - Pollen	Buds						
MIGRANTS - Robins - Osprey - Canadian Geese - Mergansers			<2 Snow Geese / Canadian Geese > 5	Robin in school yard in tree	2 Mergansers on river (both female)		
SENSES - Birds Chirping - Water Dripping - Lawn Mowers - Smell of first flowers	- Feeling soft puffy willows	Water Dripping			Birds Chirping (sounds like Chickadee)		

Learning Extension - Journaling

Materials: journal, pencil

Instructions:

- In your writing journal draw and complete the following chart.
- Can you research one of your wonders?

Date	I Observed...	I Wonder...?
<i>Example</i> April 28	First purple crocus flower.	Why is it fuzzy?

Learning Extension - Nature Number Lines

Materials: bristle board, markers, a long stick, tape, string, a variety of natural materials (cones, twigs, leaves etc.)

Instructions:

- Cut your bristle board into small squares (approximately 15 cm x 15 cm).
- Create number cards by drawing numbers 1 to 10 (or higher as desired).
- During your nature moment walk, collect a variety of natural materials (cones, twigs, rocks, leaves etc.).
- Place number cards on the ground. Sort natural materials into groups of similar objects.
- For each number card, place found objects by matching number card with an accurate number of objects. Count out objects as you place them by the number cards.
- Using string, thread or tie your objects onto the string. Continue with each sorted group of objects. Strings will be shorter or longer depending on the number of objects.
- Tie the strings onto your long stick in numerical order. Tape your number card to the stick above your string with the same number.
- Hang your stick outside where strings can be touched and counted.

Discussion:

Young children need opportunities to sort objects based on similarities and differences and to count in a variety of situations. This activity is an engaging way to get outside observing nature while creating a visual representation of numbers. Concepts of size, shape, texture and how numbers increase in quantity can be discussed.