

Nature Walk

What to do:

1. Tell your child you are going to make binoculars. He or she will be able to look through them.
2. Tape the paper towel tubes together. Thread yarn through the ends of the two tubes for a neck strap.
3. Optional: If desired, you can also cut cellophane to cover the ends of the binoculars and tape it or use a rubber band to keep it on the tube.
4. Go on a nature walk. Bring your binoculars and egg carton or sack to put treasures in. Ask your child, "What will we find?"
5. After you have walked a while, look at your collection.
6. Use the magnifying glass to look at your collected objects more closely. Also use it to observe what's around you. Ask your child, "Are there any ants in the grass or on the rock?"
7. When you get home, identify the objects (like different leaves), and sort the items (by color).

How to extend activity:

As the weather gets warmer, you can continue to do this and every time, add new items into your child's collection. Ask new questions like, "What kind of insect is this?" "What shape is that cloud?" and "What color is that sign?"

Materials:

- Empty paper towel tube, cut in half
- Tape
- Yarn
- Rubber band (optional)
- Egg carton or small sack
- Cellophane (optional)
- Unbreakable magnifying glass
- Toddler book
- Book Sharing: Create a book about your nature walk. Write down what your child tells you about your adventure. You can create a collage of all the things you found and include them in your book, or your child can draw them. Talk about your collection as you create your book.



What they learn:

Cognitive: When your child is exploring, she is learning about all the creatures and plants in her neighborhood and in her world.

Language: Your child's brain is matching the words to the real objects. Your child is an active participant in her world. She will notice and discover things that you might have walked right by.