



Parents as Teachers.

## ACTIVITY *page*

24-36 months

### What do we have?

- > 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.*

# Nature Walk: Classifying and Enjoying Nature

## How do we do it?

1. Tell your child you are going to make binoculars. He will be able to look through them.
2. Tape the paper towel tubes together. Thread yarn through the ends of two tubes for a neck strap.
3. If desired, 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. "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. "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).

## What's in it for us?

- > **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 things that you might have walked right by. She is discovering.

---



---

(child skill or parent skill defined by the parent/parent educator)



## Parents as Teachers.

### Parenting behavior

**Designing/guiding:** As you consult with your child about what you are doing, take advantage of teachable moments. Then fill in the learning gaps. Your child is learning each moment.

### Continued learning

*Talk about the parts of nature you saw on your walk. Read your book over and over. Use the classic call-and-repeat chant *Going on a Lion Hunt* and change the words to match your adventure.*

*Go outside no matter what the weather is like. Talk about how cold or hot it is. Feel the wind, the wet grass, or the snowflakes on your tongue. Observe the sky, the earth, the rocks, the creatures, and the plants. Listen to the birds, the dogs, and the sounds as you walk.*

### What I noticed about my child ...

### What I noticed about myself ...