

TA Tidbits



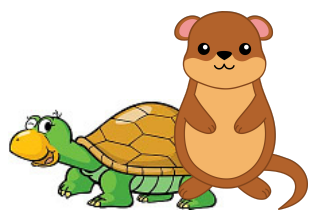
IT'S ALL ABOUT FALL

The month of October is a great time to take advantage of the changing seasons and heighten children's awareness of the world around them. Helping children connect with the changing seasons leaves turning colors, changes with insects and animals increases their awareness of their environment. Here are some things to do with children this month: (and here is a link to more information and ideas about connecting children with nature)

<http://www.naeyc.org/tyc/article/connecting-young-children-with-nature>

FUN Facts About Animals Seen This Time of Year

Did you know that baby squirrels; are called kittens, can't see at birth and rely on their mother's milk for the first few months of life? Record activity of a squirrel seen outside in the child care area. Gather various materials outside and let children create their own squirrels using whatever materials (leaves, grass) they choose.



Bears, groundhogs and many pond animals such as toads and turtles will dig dens in the fall underground and sleep for months during the winter. Here are some links to children's books about hibernation:

- ✓ [Hibernation Station by Michelle Meadows](#)
- ✓ [Hibernation by Margaret Hall](#)
- ✓ [Good Reads: Various Popular Books on Hibernation](#)

Other animals, such as geese, monarch butterflies, hummingbirds and whales do not dig dens, but rather migrate, or move to warmer environments in preparation for the winter months. How far do they have to travel? Use a map and let the children map out the travel of migration! Here is a website that can help:

[Online Kids Discover: Mapping and Navigating Migrations](#)



October 2015

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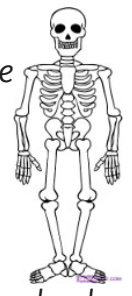


Use the abundance of items such as spiders and skeletons; to teach children such things as why spiders are not considered insects

<http://www.venomousspiders.net/arespidersinsects.htm>

For older children, skeletons can be used to learn bones of the body and can be made into games where they must try to put the skeleton "back together". Here is a website that can help:

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/skeletal.php>

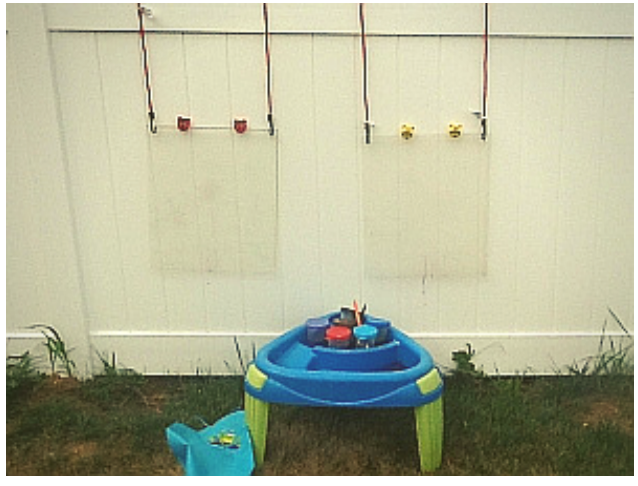


Ask families to take pictures of trees in their neighborhood or yard that have changed colors and make an Autumn Leaves book from them. Go on walk so children can collect leaves and talk about the various shapes and colors that come from different types of trees. Why do some trees change colors and some do not (deciduous lose their leaves, evergreens do not- they are always green!) This expands children's vocabulary and teaches science concepts. Here is a link to 7 video's teaching young children about Autumn leaves



<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Category.aspx?CategoryID=8065>

The weather is perfect for outside activities, such as painting outside! Setting up an area where children can use their creative expression to create artwork outside offers children a wonderful learning experience.



Photograph taken at "Helping Hands Family Child Care" - Bridget Williams, Provider