

Nature-al Discoveries in October

Welcome to Fall! The air is crisp (finally), the leaves are colorful, and the humidity is beginning to fade. Yes! Those are just a few things I love about Fall. This is a great time to see animal habitats up close because the leaves are falling away and leaving them more exposed. We have a pair of barred owls living in the woods behind our house and it is awesome to watch them. They are so stealthy. If you aren't paying close attention you could miss them. They sit quietly perched in bald trees waiting for dinner to run past. They spot it. And then quieter than a whisper they glide past to catch their prey. Awesome. We have been watching them for a couple of years. Speaking of owls and habitats, this month we will discover amazing habitats on our campus (inside trees, among leaf litter, under logs, in the ground, and even manmade habitats). We will talk about bat houses, mason bee houses, and bird houses. We will also begin working on a life-sized nest that the kids can fit inside. It's going to be so cool. So, save your dryer lint for me and bring it in. We can use it in our nest. Any fabric and string scraps (of natural fibers) are welcome as well.

IN THE CLASSROOM

The leaves are falling and the trees are becoming bare. Let's create a Fall bulletin board display together. I will put a tree up on the Nature-al Discoveries bulletin board. I would love to have a colorful Fall leaf from each child for the display.

- ❑ Have each child make a paint handprint (using Fall colors) on a piece of paper. You can trace their hand if they don't want paint.
- ❑ Once dry, cut out the handprint so that it resembles a maple leaf (s-t-r-e-t-c-h your imagination)
- ❑ Allow child to decorate his/her leaf with gold glitter and glue.
- ❑ Don't forget to put the child's name on the leaf. I will collect them and place them on the tree in the hallway. It is going to be gorgeous! Have fun!



Art in Nature

Go for a walk. Collect lots of different leaves. Place leaves underneath a plain piece of paper. Use crayons to color the paper over the leaves. The texture of the leaf designs should appear through the crayon rubbing. Talk to your child about the different textures and shapes of leaves. (If you feel really adventurous, take the crayons with you and do tree bark rubbings!)

FAMILY FUN

Materials: 2 apples, red, green and yellow paint, a knife, paper.

Activity:

1. Cut one apple in half from top (stem) to bottom. Remove exposed seeds.
2. Cut the other apple in half width-wise. You should see a star pattern in the center of this apple. Remove exposed seeds.
3. Dip apples into paint.
4. Stamp apple patterns onto paper.

Materials: red, green and yellow apples, knife

Activity: Cut apples into wedges and allow children to taste each apple. Which is their favorite? Which is your favorite?

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE NATURE-AL DISCOVERIES BULLETIN BOARD FOR YOUR CHILD'S DISCOVERY WALK DATE!
Please feel free to join us!

KIDDIE COVE

Can you find these habitats outside?
Guess what lives inside?

Check them off when you find them.

hole in tree



tunnel spider web

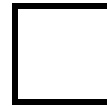
(look in bushes, between rocks
or even in the gaps of wound up
garden hoses. They are
everywhere!)



nest



tiny hole in
ground



bigger hole in
ground

