

Presents

NATURE PLAY

DIY Guides to the popular Starting Out Wild and Growing Up Wild Programs

LIVING IN A TREE

Lesson Plan

1. Gather – Hello Song
2. Read – the poem “Toddler Tall Oak Tree” using large pictures for the animals.
3. Learn – Talk about the parts of a tree
4. Sing – *The Little Owl* song.
5. Move – Act out “Who lives in a tree?”
6. Walk – Walk around your house, play eye-spy. Count what you see!
7. Create – You can color or paste colored paper on to the tree outline and cut out the creatures to glue on it.
8. Snack – Look at the foods in your kitchen—which ones came from trees?
9. End – Goodbye Song

PREPARATION

Find a nearby tree to conduct this activity. If you are not around any trees, print out the optional tree activity below, or draw one on a piece of paper.

If you are outside, take time to make sure the area is safe, check for poisonous plants or wildlife that you might want to keep your distance from.

MATERIALS NEEDED

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Toy animals of who lives in a tree
 - Squirrel
 - Owl
 - Spider
 - Snake
- Green paper
- Brown paper
- Print out Tree shape or paper to draw a tree
- Crayons or washable markers

SNACK

Gather the supplies to eat a snack before engaging in this activity so they are ready when you get to them. Plan to talk to the children about how trees create some of our favorite foods.

Snack Ingredients

- Apple slices
- Chocolate chip pieces
- Peanut Butter
- Nuts like pistachios, walnuts, pecans, or cashews

Or for those with a nut allergy:

- Orange slices
- Apples
- Bananas
- Chocolate chip pieces
- Maple syrup

TARGETS

- Trees have roots, trunk, bark, leaves
- Many different animals live in trees

VOCABULARY WORDS

Tree

Describe what you see as you point to a image of or a real tree.

Leaf

Pick up a leaf or draw one. Let them hold the leaf or try drawing one themselves.

Roots

Roots *slurp* like a sponge to absorb water and nutrients.

Bark

Let them feel the rough texture of the bark, talk about how it protects the tree.

Trunk

The trunk is the base of the tree and holds the tree up.

Canopy

Is the leafy area of the tree.

Nest

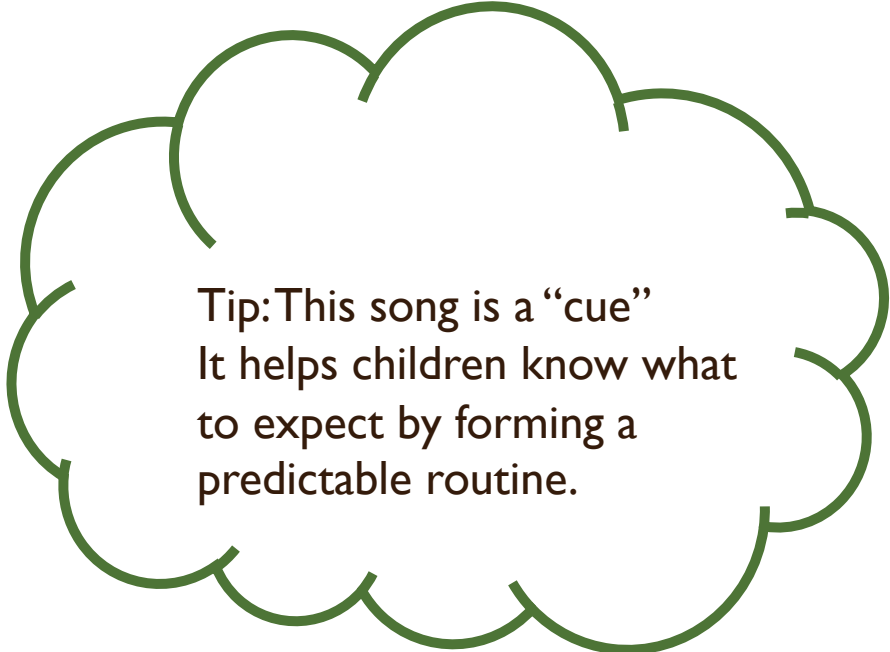
Build a nest out of materials on hand, or even a blanket, talk about how it is soft and protects the eggs.



HELLO SONG!

Sing to the tune of "Goodnight Ladies"

Hello children
I see you
I'm very happy
To see you
Greet your neighbor
Boogie on down
Give a clap and
Turn around.



Tip: This song is a "cue"
It helps children know what
to expect by forming a
predictable routine.



READ

TODDLER TALL OAK TREE

Poem

Tip: use pictures to show animals

Moth flying high I see
Gathering nectar in the tree!

Bat flying high I see
Catching insects in the tree!

Tree frog sticky feet I see
High up in the top of the tree!

Moth caught up in web I see!
Spider wove it in the tree!

Woodpecker rat-a-tats I see
Finding insects in the tree!

Squirrels eating nuts I see
High up in the tree!

Snake slithers up I see
Looking for nest in the tree!

Caterpillar munching leaves I see
Fly as a butterfly from the tree!

Do you see who lives in a tree!



LEARN

THE PARTS OF THE TREE

Roots slurp up water and nutrients (food) and anchor the tree to the ground

{Gesture hands low and squeeze like a sponge make slurp sound}

Food and water whoosh up the **trunk**

The trunk supports the tree

{gesture hands from floor up and make whoosh sound}

Leaves are the engine making energy from the sun

{Gesture with arms moving up and down like pistons and make chug chug sounds}

Bark protects the tree like clothing

{give yourself a hug around the middle}

Facts

Trees do many things to help us:

- Provide shade and a place to play
- Help the air and climate be healthy
- Provide a place for living things to live
- Provide nuts and fruit to eat

Act Out

As you talk about and point to the different parts of the tree, act out with sounds and action the parts of a tree.



SING

Sing to: "The Farmer in the Dell"

(Raise arms overhead, fingers touching.)

The trees are growing leaves,
The trees are growing leaves.
With soil, rain, and sunny days,
The trees are growing leaves.

(Bend over and touch floor.)

The trees are growing roots,
The trees are growing roots.
With soil, rain and sunny days,
The trees are growing roots.

(Run hands up and down sides.)

The trees are growing bark,
The trees are growing bark.
With soil, rain and sunny days,
The trees are growing bark.

Sung to: "The Farmer in the Dell"

Roots, branches and leaves
Trunks and bark (x2)

And... Buds, and fruits, and
flowers in the breeze,
These are the parts of trees,
parts of trees!



MOVE

WHO LIVES IN A TREE?

A squirrel and a bat
and a bird, I see.

A snake and a spider
and a butterfly

Some down low
and some up high!

Tip: Act out the animal when you give out the answer or get a correct guess.

- Squirrel–swish tail
- Bat–arms in an M shape
- Bird–flap wings

- Spider–hook thumbs and wiggle fingers
- Butterfly–wave arms
- Snake–wiggle one arm

Optional: Use toy animals to talk about “who lives in a tree.”



WALK

SEARCH FOR A TREE

- Use all the senses to experience the parts, similarities and differences in trees.
- Look for animals, birds and insects in trees, signs of life in trees, and things that could be homes or food.
- Talk about what you are seeing

I SPY

Play a game of I spy and spy different parts of the tree. See if your child can recall the vocabulary they just learned.

“I spy, with my little eye, something _____”

Some suggestions:

- *“I spy, with my little eye, something rough”*
- *something green*
- *something tall*

COUNT

As you look at the parts of the tree, count out what you see

- How many branches does it have?
- How many leaves are on a small branch?
- How many trees do you see?



CREATE

Optional

CRAFT SUPPLIES

1. Print this tree, or draw your own on some paper
2. Color the leaves green, the trunk brown

NATURE SUPPLIES

1. Draw a tree on the sidewalk with chalk, or in the dirt with a stick
2. Collect leaves and sticks to decorate tree





SNACK

FRUIT NACHOS

Apple Nachos

1. Lay the fruit slices on the bottom of a plate.
2. Sprinkle nuts and chocolate chips.
3. Heat up 3 tbsp. peanut butter and 1 tbsp. honey in microwave in 15 second increments just enough to soften. Then drizzle over apples.
4. Enjoy!

Mixed Fruit Nachos

1. Lay the fruit slices on the bottom of a plate.
2. Lightly drizzle chocolate syrup over the fruits.
3. Enjoy!

PICNIC TALK

Look at the foods in your kitchen—which ones came from trees?

Came from Trees:

Apples
Bananas
Oranges
Pears
Nuts
Honey (from Bee Hives in Trees)
Coffee
Tea
Chocolate
Cinnamon

Not from Trees:

Bread
Eggs
Milk
Lettuce
Carrots
Strawberries
Pasta

Tip: While eating the snack, ask your child about what you just saw. Did you learn that something lives in your tree? How do you know?



GOODBYE SONG!

Sing to the tune of "Goodnight Ladies"

(wave to everyone while singing)

Goodbye, my friends (x3)
It's time to say goodbye

(blow pretend kisses at each other)

Blow kisses, my friends (x3)
It's time to say goodbye!

(stand up and bow to each other)

Bow to my friends (x3)
It's time to say goodbye!

Good bye!!!

Tip: This song is a "cue"
It helps children know what to expect
by forming a predictable routine.