

A GREAT WAY TO COMBINE YOUR CHILD'S NATURAL CURIOSITY WITH HIS OR HER DEVELOPING CLASSIFICATION AND LANGUAGE ARTS SKILLS IS TO HAVE HIM OR HER CREATE FIELD GUIDES.

materials

LOOSE-LEAF PAPER
THREE-RING BINDER
PENCIL
CLIPBOARD

DIGITAL CAMERA (OPTIONAL)
MARKERS, CRAYONS, OR COLORED PENCILS
ACCESS TO ONLINE FIELD GUIDES
STAPLER

instructions

- 1) TAKE YOUR CHILD EXPLORING IN AN OUTDOOR AREA WHERE YOU CAN OBSERVE LIVING CREATURES IN THEIR NATURAL SETTING. CHOOSE ABOUT 3 CREATURES YOU'D LIKE TO PUT IN YOUR FIELD GUIDE.
- 2) IF YOU HAVE A DIGITAL CAMERA, USE IT TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE YOU SEE. IF NOT, HAVE YOUR CHILD DRAW THE ANIMAL OR PLANT ON THE BLANK PAPER, USING A CLIPBOARD. BE SURE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PATIENCE, AND OF LOOKING CLOSELY AT DETAILS. TINY DETAILS (LIKE CONES AND BERRIES ON TREES) WILL PROVE IMPORTANT IN IDENTIFYING THE PLANT OR ANIMAL.
- 3) ASSIST YOUR CHILD IN USING BOOKS AND ONLINE RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY THE LIVING THINGS YOU OBSERVED. (ENATURE.COM)
- 4). AFTER YOUR CHILD HAS IDENTIFIED A SPECIES AND READ A LITTLE ABOUT IT, CREATE A PAGE ABOUT THAT CREATURE FOR A FIELD GUIDE WITH A DRAWING AND ONE TO TWO PARAGRAPHS CONTAINING:

NAME AND CLASSIFICATION
WHERE IT LIVES, WHAT IT EATS, AND HOW IT GROWS
LESSER-KNOWN FACTS ABOUT IT (IS IT POISONOUS?)

