

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

Grade Levels: ESE K-5

Time: 45 Minutes



Muddy Buddies

Goal: To connect with nature and feel their way through sensory stations

Objectives:

- ° Students will explore nature using their senses
- ° Engage in relationships with peers as they play in nature
- ° Increase gross and fine motor skills through dirt and mud play
- ° Increase problem solving skills

Get down and dirty with this sensory integrated program. This sticky, gooey, sippy substance has creative powers that will allow students to explore their fine and gross motor skills and sensory awareness. Students will rotate between activities where they will use their imagination to create creatures, make tracks, exercise their brain, and meet animals that also dig in the dirt.

Curriculum Alignment:

SC.K.N.1.2; SC.K.N.1.5; SC.K.P.8.1; SC.K.P.12.1; SC.K.P.13.1; SC.K.L.14.1; SC.K.L.14.3; SC.1.N.1.1; SC.1.N.1.2; SC.1.N.1.4; SC.1.P.12.1; SC.1.L.14.1; SC.2.N.1.5; SC.2.L.17.1; SC.2.L.17.2; SC.3.L.14.1; SC.3.P.8.3; SC.4.P.8.1; SC.5.L.17.1

Where education and conservation collide!

This program, presented by Brevard Zoo Education staff, is an enhanced experience of the distinct and unique wildlife habitats found at Brevard Zoo. Students delve into the concept through fun, interactive activities, questions and participatory responses, hands-on animal encounters, and animal meet and greets. Programs are designed to supplement in-class learning. Depth and structure vary depending on grade and age range.

Keywords:

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|------------|-------------|
| Experiment | Hard |
| Reaction | Animals |
| Plant | Fizzy |
| Garden | Slimy |
| Bug | Stinky |
| Soil | Roll |
| Feel | Imagination |
| Touch | Teamwork |
| Soft | Chemical |

Why teaching in Nature is important?

A growing number of research has shown the importance of removing the walls and allow natural environment teaching in a natural Florida habitat.

Children thrive in structured environments and familiar surroundings with people and objects that they are accustomed to using. When you put them in a novel natural environment, more teachable moments present themselves and children can practice new skills and target behaviors. Children have an opportunity for whole-body sensory experiences to develop strong bodies and minds. This program provides an unstructured play time to include senses and challenge young bodies by the uneven and unpredictable, ever-changing terrain.

Research suggests that exposure to the natural world – including nearby nature in cities – helps improve human health, well-being, and intellectual capacity in ways that science is only recently beginning to understand. People need nature for healthy development. (childrenandnature.org)

Children need to connect to the natural world. The only way to develop a relationship is to experience nature fully. They must discover, play, explore, see, touch, smell and absorb it. Experiences that are rich with sensory stimulation help develop problem solving and life skills.

PLANNING YOUR RESERVATION

Fall and spring fill quickly
PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

Groups must register
2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

Programs require a
MINIMUM OF 10 PEOPLE

Programs are available
ON AND OFF SITE

Visit our website for
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Proper adult supervision
REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES

ACCREDITED BY THE
**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

For more information or to book a program email EDREGISTRAR@BREVARDZOO.ORG or call 321.254.9453 X219