

Newsletter

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, we will be investigating the theme *Nature Walk*. We will learn about camping in the woods, take a walk through a city park with a park ranger, and discover animals that live in and around a pond.



Theme-Related Activities to Do Together

Animal Tracks

Help your child discover animal clues. Help look for tracks, empty nests, or a hole in the ground where an animal may have burrowed. Ask, What animal may have been here? and What makes you think that?

Camp Out at Home

Set up camp with your child at home. Use chairs and a blanket to construct a tent. Pack a snack, head for the great indoors and tell stories around an imaginary camp fire.

What Lives There?

Ask your child what habitat he or she would like to learn more about. Visit the library to discover what the habitat is like. Make a list of animals that live in that habitat.

Theme-Related Books to Enjoy Together!

Secret Place by Eve Bunting. Clarion 1996 (32p) In the middle of a city, a boy finds a place where ducks nest and possums come to drink.

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney. Viking 1982 (32p) also paper Miss Rumphius makes her community a more beautiful place by planting lupines. Available in Spanish as *La señorita Runfio*.

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen. Philomel 1987 (32p) In a Caldecott Award story, a father and daughter go owling in the woods on a winter's evening.

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema. Dial 1981 (32p) also paper In a cumulative African tale, Ki-Pat brings rain to drought-stricken Kapiti Plain.

Ant Cities by Arthur Dorros. Harper 1988 (32p) also paper Each ant that lives in a hill has a special job, whether it is cleaning the nest or gathering food. Available in Spanish as *Ciudades de hormigas*.

Desert Babies by Kathy Darling. Walker 1997 (32p) An introduction to the baby animals that make their home in various deserts.