



PLAY!

How can you play with nature?

Look closely at rocks, leaves, and flowers.

Use an egg carton to collect nature treasures.

Ask open ended questions about the shapes, colors, and textures.

Go on a scavenger hunt.

Explore & Play With Me!

LEARN!

Try these conversation starters to encourage investigation:

I notice . . .

Acknowledges child's interest and efforts
Non-judgmental

"I notice you using your muscles to smash that rock!"

I wonder . . .

Open ended question
Invites creative thinking

"I wonder where the birds go when it rains?"

Tell me more . . .

Expands a child's thinking
Encourages language development

"Tell me more about the bug you found."

Watch the
video to learn
more!
tinyurl.com/plgvideos

GROW!

Babies (0-18 months)

Babies investigate the world using all of their senses. Touch something cold, listen to the wind, or smell something sweet, and talk about it.

Early science involves noticing cause and effect. Let babies knock over block towers and drop toys from a high chair.

Toddlers (18 months-3 years)

Toddlers are ready to engineer! Build with blocks and boxes and count as you stack to add math skills to their play.

Scientists ask questions. Turn water play into a science activity by guessing if objects will sink or float. I wonder why?

Preschoolers (3-5 years)

Preschoolers will love to make a hypothesis. Let children guess what will happen if you mix baking soda and vinegar.

Scientists make observations. Compare and contrast the leaves or insects you find on a nature walk.

Find more
resources and
activities at
coloradoearlyliteracy.org



Play, Learn & Grow

LET'S CREATE

Binoculars materials:

- 2 short cardboard tubes
- glue stick
- constructions paper
- scissors
- string (optional)
- crayons or markers



1 Cut a 2 inch strip of paper.

2 Let your child color or decorate the paper.

3 Glue the cardboard tubes together, side by side.

4 Wrap the paper around the tubes and secure with glue.

5 Poke 1 hole at the end of each tube and tie a string to make a loop.

! *Warning: string can be dangerous around a baby's neck. Skip this step or only play with adult supervision with children under 3.*

Let's play!

Use your binoculars to play I-spy, go on a nature walk, or pretend to be explorers.

How can you play with a cardboard tube?

Sound tubes: hold it up to your ear, what do you hear? Play with sounds by using the tube as a horn or a megaphone.

Ramps: roll small balls or cars through the tube. How fast do they go? Connect tubes to make a marble run!

Cap drop: Tape the tube to a wall or refrigerator. Show your baby or toddler how to drop a cap through the tube.

Scoop and pour: use tubes to scoop and pour sand or rice in a sensory bin.

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