 November Lesson Plan

Nature Scavenger Hunt

**Goal:**

Introduce children to many things outside in the fall. (Pinecones, leaves, pine needles, river rocks, sticks etc…) Show children different activities they can do with items.

**Montana Early Childhood Standards:**

Mathematics and Numeracy

4.10 Children develop the ability to think and work with numbers to understand their uses

4.13 Children learn to identify, describe, produce and create patterns using mathematical language and materials

Science

4.17 Children develop an understanding of the physical world (the nature and properties of energy, nonliving matter, and the forces that give order to nature.)

**Family Circle Time**

Short story time: ***Going on a Bear Hunt***

Nursery rhymes: *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*

Action rhyme: *Jack in the Box*

**Children’s Activity**

Go on a treasure hunt (can be outside or inside)

Each child is given a lunch sack

**Family Activities:**

1. Counting: count items, have students line objects up on a piece of paper to count items and measure/compare (graph) with how many other items they have
   1. Materials
      1. Rocks, sticks, pinecones, leaves etc… (things that you find on a nature walk)
      2. Paper to graph on
      3. Crayons or colored pencils
   2. Question ideas
      1. How many brown leaves do you have? How many pine cones?
      2. Do you have more brown leaves than pines cones?
      3. Which has the most? Which has the least?
      4. Which is your favorite? How many do you have of your favorite?
2. Sorting: ways to sort- have child put items in different places on a blank piece of paper and group them according to size, category, heavy/light objects etc.
   1. Materials
      1. Paper
      2. Rocks, sticks, pinecones, leaves etc…
   2. Question ideas
      1. Tell me how you sorted your things?
      2. Show me another way to sort them.
3. Patterning: Create different patterns with the objects (leaf, pinecone, leaf, pinecone, leaf pinecone; red leaf, yellow leaf, rock, red leaf, yellow leaf, rock etc…)
   1. Materials
      1. Rocks, sticks, pinecones, leaves etc…
   2. Question ideas
      1. If I made this pattern, what would come next?
      2. Can you show me another pattern?
4. I Spy: put rice in plastic containers about half full. Put in foam objects and tape the top of the lid so container will not open or spill.
   1. Materials
      1. Empty and cleaned clear drink bottles
      2. Rice
      3. Small foam animals, rocks, shells, beads etc…
   2. Question ideas
      1. Ask your child to count out a certain number of items to put in their *I Spy bottle*.
      2. After making the bottle: Find something blue, Find the chicken, etc…
5. Treasure Box: Decorate a shoe box to hold all of your treasures
   1. Materials
      1. Shoe box
      2. Glue
      3. Tissue paper/ construction paper/ old wrapping paper
      4. Scissors
      5. Stickers, glitter, anything to make your box fancy
   2. Question ideas
      1. Tell me about your treasure box
      2. What did you put on your box?
      3. What color, shape etc.. are the different things put on the box
      4. How many stickers are on your box?

**Nursery Rhymes**

***Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star***

Twinkle, twinkle little star

How I wonder what you are

Up above the world so high

Like a diamond in the sky

**Action Rhyme**

***Jack in the Box***

Jack in the box, Jack in the box

What do I see?

I see a ….(fill in with animal of your choice)

Jack in the box, Jack in the box

Back in your box.

(repeat several times with different animals or community helpers etc…)

## Take Home Activities

**Nature Painting**

Materials

* Leaves, pinecones
* Paint
* Cookie pan

For younger kids try “pine cone leaf painting” use washable paint, a pre-cut leaf out of paper and let children place pine cone in paint and let child put the pinecone in a cookie pan with the paper leave and move around the cookie pan. Try dipping the pinecone in different colors and letting them tilt and move around the pan. See what the leaf looks like after it’s finished.

**Nature Walk**

Take your kids on a traditional nature walk through the park, the backyard, a field, or the forest. Before you leave home, help your child put on an old sock over one of their shoes. As your child tromps along, he or she will pick up dirt and seeds on the bottom of the sock. After you get home, remove the sock without turning it inside out, put it into a baggie, Spritz with water, and place it in a window. Leave it there for several weeks and watch what grows. After about a week, you should begin to see grass and other plants grow from the bottom of the sock. You might need to water the sock occasionally throughout the growing period!