

Bibliography of Nature Education Resources:

(This is by no means a complete list, but includes many of our favorites)

Educational Resource Books and Articles:

Young Children magazine, 1/08, features several articles on children and nature.

Child Care Exchange magazine, 11/07, “Beginnings Workshop: Curriculum and Nature”.

Learning With Nature Idea Book (and DVD), Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, 2007

Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv

This is the groundbreaking work that inspired the current concern in over children’s lack of play space and ties to nature.

The Man Who Planted Hope and Grew Happiness, by Jean Giono

This beautiful story can be paraphrased for children and told with props from nature.

The Nature Handbook: a Guide to Observing the Great Outdoors, by Ernest Williams
Excellent resource book, especially for showing patterns in nature.

Kids Gardening, by Kevin and Kim Rafferty

Full of great indoor and outdoor activities and comes with a trowel.

Golden Nature Guide series, by Golden Press

These invaluable little books are filled with information and beautiful drawings.

Sharing Nature With Children; Sharing Nature With Children II, by Joseph Cornell

These books feature nature games and activities, accompanied by sound strategies and techniques for nature education with different ages.

Talking to Fireflies, Shrinking the Moon: A Parent’s Guide to Nature Activities, by Edward Duensing.

Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education, by David Sobel

While exploring the philosophy and practice of nature education, the writer brings in some excellent nature activities. He also includes some useful titles in his bibliography.

Snips and Snails and Walnut Whales: Nature Crafts for Children, by Phyllis Fiarotta

Keepers of the Earth; Keepers of the Animals; Keepers of Life; Keepers of the Night, by Caduto and Bruchac

These amazing books combine traditional Native American stories with nature-oriented activities and scientific information. Most of the themes are aimed at elementary ages, but aspects of the stories and activities are fine for preschoolers, and the background information is helpful for teachers and parents.

Hands-On Nature, by Lingelbach and Purcell
Fantastic resource for environmental education.

Teaching Kids to Love the Earth, by Lachecki et al
186 outdoor activities designed for children of all ages.

Kids Camp!; More Than Moccasins; Eco Art, by Laurie Carlson
This author's activity and craft books are well laid out, informative and full of fun.

Nature Crafts, by Joy Williams
Very imaginative and beautifully presented photographs of each step in these projects.

Nature's Art Box, by Laura Martin
This one contains great background information and lots of details on 65 projects.

Discovering Nature With Young Children, by Chalufour and Worth
There is also a trainer's guide for this book that can be purchased separately. Both are available through NAEYC.

Proud Moments, by Howard Rainier
Beautiful, modern and colorful photographs of Native American people and landscapes.

Children's Picture Books -- Informational:

A Log's Life, by Wendy Pfeffer
What an amazingly told story, following the life and death cycle of an oak tree. The illustrations are truly phenomenal.

Animals Born Alive and Well; Plants That Never Ever Bloom; How to Hide a Butterfly, all by Ruth Heller. These are remarkable books with engaging rhymes about completely fascinating aspects of nature.

The Spider Makes a Web, by Joan Lexau
The details are wonderfully explained, with well drawn illustrations.

Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs and Other Ughs, by Anthony D. Fredericks
This is beautifully illustrated with great close-ups, and the text rhymes.

The Tiny Seed; The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle
Both books teach growth concepts (except for the amazing things the caterpillar eats!) well, with Carle's signature illustrations.

National Geographic Books for Young Explorers series

This set of books appears to be out of print, but used copies are readily available. The photographs of animals, plants and landscapes and accompanying information is very appropriate for young children.

Nature's Children series, by Grolier and Scholastic Books

This 21 book set is topnotch for presenting fascinating facts about animals.

Children's Picture Books -- Stories:

Play With Me, by Marie Hall Ets

This is a lovely story about what happens when a little girl wants to play with the wild animals in the forest.

Stellaluna, by Janelle Cannon

I recently discovered a board game about this book too. This book has fun with the idea of what would happen if a little bat wound up in a bird's nest.

The Snail's Spell, by Joanne Ryder

This book encourages the reader to imagine life as a snail in the garden. The illustrations are excellent!

Quick as a Cricket, by Audrey Wood

We especially love this book since our dog's name is Cricket, who leads the children down our nature trails. The book inspires children to move like various animals and the illustrations are awesome.

Rainbow Crow, by Nancy Van Laan

This is a beautifully told version of this Native American legend.

Is Your Mama a Llama?, by Deborah Guarino

What a delightful rhyming book with lovely animal illustrations and a satisfying ending

The Mitten, by Jan Brett.

This and many other Jan Brett titles highlight beautiful landscapes and animals. Watch out for hedgie!

Everybody Needs a Rock, by Byrd Baylor

Wonderful illustrations and fascinating poetry. This author has written other great books.

Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back, by Bruchac and London

Beautiful Native American stories about the thirteen moons.

Love Flute; Star Boy, by Paul Goble

Here's another prolific writer/illustrator, specializing in Native American stories.

Quillworker, by Terri Cohlene

This is a beautiful version of the Quillworker tale, which explains the origin of the Big Dipper.

The Girl Who Loved Coyotes, by Nancy Wood

This book includes a fine collection of coyote stories from the southwest. The illustrations are beautifully detailed.

Anansi the Spider, by Gerald McDermott

This classic Ashanti tale includes vivid descriptions of Anansi's sons' adventures as they travel to rescue Anansi. It's a fun one for acting out.

Recorded Music:

Spin, Spider, Spin, by Zeitlin and Berman, available at

http://www.edact.com/product.cfm?p_id=135

This lovely group of songs encourages empathy and positive feelings towards animals and nature.

Joyful Things, by Kamala, available at

<http://www.innersong.com>

This collection of songs was recorded at a school in Australia and features many of the 3-12 year old children singing about rivers, mountains, etc.

Dirt Made My Lunch, (and many other titles) by the Banana Slug String Band

<http://www.bananaslugstringband.com/>

I first met this zany "bunch" at an NAEYC conference and found their infectious music, crazy costumes and imaginative lyrics simply hilarious, yet informative and accurate!

Songbooks:

Rise Up Singing, by Blood and Patterson, available at

<http://www.singout.org/rus.html>

This is a fantastic collection of 1200 songs for all ages. CD's can be purchased separately. There's a separate section of nature songs, including "The Happy Wanderer", "Peace Like a River", "I Love the Mountains", "You Can't Make a Turtle Come Out" and many more classics.

Story-Songs and Verses:

Nature Ways in Story and Verse, by Dorothy Harrer, available at

http://www.awsna.org/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=439&osCsid=e2i662tt4uk3q9fr6tros4k6t3

Inspired by Waldorf education philosophy, this is a beautiful collection of stories and poems.

Oh, A-Hunting We Will Go, by John Langstaff

This is a classic song, whimsically illustrated, fun to sing along with and often inspires children to create their own silly verses.

Frog Went A-Courtin', by John Langstaff

Another fun one, with amazingly detailed drawings.

Eency Weency Spider, by Joanne Oppenheim

This is a Bank Street Ready to Read version of this fingerplay, wonderfully illustrated, with some clever new verses.

Over in the Meadow, by Ezra Jack Keats

There are many versions of this beautiful counting song, but this one really stands out.

Shake My Sillies Out, song by Raffi, illustrated by David Allender

This favorite song is set in the forest at a summer camp, where children join the wild animals in doing the song actions.