

**Course Description:**

Students in this course will complete projects that are designed to allow for exploration and discovery. Students observe their surroundings and through observations of the natural world conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development.

**Materials needed:** 2 Ziploc bags, 1 cup of Crisco or shortening, Bowl, Drinking glass and bowl, Watercolor paints, Tomato seeds, Small pot, Water, Soil, Colored pencils or crayons, Plate, Large pot, Thermometer with Celsius and Fahrenheit measurements, and Items for vegetable garden: seeds, soil, water.

Module	Lesson Title	Objectives
1	Animals in the Arctic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This week we explore what life is like in the coldest parts of the world, namely the Arctic and Antarctic regions of the North and South Pole.</li> <li>2. Your child will be encouraged to study animals indigenous to these regions, and perform an experiment to discover the insulating effect of blubber.</li> </ol>
	Nocturnal and Diurnal Animals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn the difference between diurnal and nocturnal animals.</li> <li>2. Examine characteristics of an owl.</li> </ol>
	States of Matter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This week your child will explore various kinds of matter, specifically liquids, solids and gases.</li> <li>2. Your child will identify objects in nature and determine if they are liquid or solid. Matter can be categorized by observable properties, such as color, size, shape, and weight.</li> <li>3. We will observe ice (or snow if it's available) melt as heat is applied and work with clay in order to reinforce the concepts that matter can change shape.</li> <li>4. Your child will draw an example of a ga</li> </ol>
2	Dolphins and Sea Life	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognize dolphins and other sea life.</li> <li>2. Complete a wet painting that illustrates sea life.</li> </ol>
	Planting a Tomato	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn how to plant a tomato.</li> <li>2. Nourish your plant and grow the tomato.</li> </ol>
	Scientific Inquiry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This week your child will engage in scientific inquiry!</li> <li>2. Your child will set up an experiment and make a hypothesis about why different objects responded — did they sink or float? Your child will complete a chart that reflects their experience.</li> </ol>

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3	Reading a Thermometer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This week your child will learn to read a thermometer and see the difference between degrees Celsius and Fahrenheit.</li> <li>2. Your child will begin to chart the</li> </ol>
	Life in a Pond	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore pond life.</li> </ol>
4	Life in the Forest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore life in the forest.</li> <li>2. Record observations.</li> </ol>
	Characteristics of the Maple Leaf	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow the travels of a maple leaf.</li> <li>2. Observe and record bird activity.</li> </ol>
	Thunder and Lightning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Observe thunder and lightening.</li> <li>2. Calculate lightning distance.</li> </ol>
	Sounds in Nature	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This week your child will focus on sounds in nature.</li> <li>2. Your child will record and discuss their sensory observations.</li> <li>3. Your child will enter an illustration of one of</li> </ol>
5	Birdhouses and Nesting Behavior	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This week we will continue our focus on birds with a look at the kinds of homes birds build for their families. If possible, your child will go on a nature walk to observe nesting behavior in local birds</li> <li>2. Your child will explore other kinds of homes as well and enter a picture into their Main Lesson</li> </ol>
	Deciduous Trees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This week your child will learn about budding deciduous trees.</li> <li>2. Your child will hear a story about Johnny Appleseed, and make a weather chart to record wind direction and temperature twice daily.</li> <li>3. Your child will compare these charts to earlier ones that they have made and discuss possible reasons for the many differences they see.</li> </ol>
6	Cycle of the Sunflower	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore the life of a sunflower.</li> </ol>
	Bees and Pollination II	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Observe bee behavior.</li> <li>2. Explore the process of pollination.</li> </ol>
	Comparing Butterflies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compare characteristics of swallowtail and monarch butterflies.</li> <li>2. Explore caterpillar cocoons.</li> </ol>

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	Planting a Garden	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This final week your child will hear a story of a boy and his vegetable garden.</li><li>2. Your child will be encouraged to plant a "garden" of your own, no matter how small, in order to help your child connect with the earth and to build a stronger sense of our interdependent relationship with nature.</li></ol>

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