

Table of Contents

Growing Up WILD: A WILD Start	4
Connecting Children to Nature	4
Developmentally Appropriate Practice	4
Nature Play	5
Math Connections	5
Language and Literacy Connections	5
Healthy Kids	5
Sparking Creativity	5
Scientific Inquiry	6
Assessing Children's Learning	6
Connections to Head Start Domains	6
Connections to NAEYC Standards	6
Respect for Living Things	7
Responsible Collecting	7
WILD about Safety	7
Activity Format	8

 The following activities are arranged in a general progression beginning with those featuring simple concepts and skills to those that are more complex. Educators are encouraged to select activities that most interest their children and meet educational objectives.

First Impressions	10
Children combine movement and math to show how they think and feel about animals.	
Ants on Parade	12
Children go outside to observe ant behavior and learn insect characteristics.	
Spider Web Wonders	14
Children learn about spiders and spider webs.	
Looking at Leaves	16
Children practice their observation skills by comparing leaves.	
In a Grasshopper's World	18
Children observe grasshoppers in their natural habitat and study them in the classroom.	
Wiggling Worms	20
Children learn about and observe earthworms.	
What's Wild?	22
Children engage in stories comparing the lives of a wild and a tame animal, then sort animals into categories.	
Wildlife is Everywhere!	24
Children make observations and understand that wildlife is all around us.	
Lunch for a Bear	26
Children identify the kinds of foods that black bears eat by creating a plate of "bear food."	
The Deep Blue Sea	28
Children develop an awareness of oceans and ocean life.	
Who Lives in a Tree?	30
Children develop an awareness of trees and some of the animals that call them "home."	

Fishing Fun!	32
Children engage in a dramatic play fishing game and learn about fish.	
Hiding in Plain Sight	34
Children play a game of hide and seek to learn about important adaptations in many wild animals.	
Tracks!	36
Children explore animal tracks and make and compare tracks of their own.	
Grow As We Go	38
Children explore the life cycles of familiar wildlife and understand that living things grow and change.	
Backbone Bonanza	40
Children learn about vertebrates and some characteristics that distinguish them.	
Bird Beak Buffet	42
Children learn about the special functions of bird beaks.	
Terrific Turkeys	44
Children learn about wild turkeys.	
Owl Pellets	46
Children dissect an owl pellet and learn what owls eat.	
Oh, Deer!	48
Children explore the parts of habitat in a physical activity.	
Seed Need	50
Children explore seeds as food for people and animals and learn how animals spread seeds.	
Show Me the Energy!	52
Children discover that all animals, including people, depend on plants as a food source, either directly or indirectly.	
Aqua Charades	54
Children explore the importance of water for people, animals and plants.	
Wildlife Water Safari	56
Children discover water sources for local wildlife and create a field notebook.	
Field Study Fun	58
Children investigate a field study plot to observe plant and animal interactions over time.	
Wildlife as Symbols	60
Children explore how wild animals are used as symbols for a variety of purposes.	
Less is More	62
Children learn that using less is a way of sharing resources.	
Acknowledgements	64
Copy Me Pages	66
Home Connections Cards	96
State Symbols	108
Tips for Teachers	110
Incorporating Wildlife into Holiday Celebrations	111
Children's Book List	112
Educator Resources	118
Head Start Child Outcomes Framework	122
Standard 2: NAEYC Accreditation Criteria for Curriculum	124
Glossary	126
Listing of Appendices	128