

Infant Activity - **NATURE EXPLORATION**

Materials:

Sensory Table
Soil, herbs, fruits, vegetables
Magnifying Glasses
Digging Tools
Worms or Ladybugs
Loose parts: funnels, containers, trays



Procedure:

When arranging and offering the above listed materials, it is important to position the materials in an orderly fashion so the children can see what is available and the possibilities for their use. Materials that are interesting, accessible and open-ended help children focus and spark their ideas and actions. When offering these materials, follow the child's lead by supporting their right to delight in discovery, share their ideas and theories, and work in amazing, yet predictable ways. (Curtis, 2004)

Math and Science Outcomes for Nature Exploration

Explore the wonders of nature:

- Infants will be provided with opportunities and possibilities to use gestures and emerging language skills to share interests about the wonders of nature
- Interacting with living things that move and change will encourage infants to take on challenges
- Children will be provided with varied opportunities and materials that help them understand the concept of biology by closely examining living things
- Using natural materials allows parents and teacher to see infants as competent beings
- Explore the benefits of nature:
- Infants are multisensory, physical beings that are born eager to discover the world around them
- Nature supplies aesthetic, intellectual, and emotional satisfaction
- Experience with nature supports complex play skills which allows infants transform space and materials to meet their needs
- Infants will be provided varied opportunities and materials to use language; gestures; and materials to convey mathematical concepts such as more, less, big, and small