



WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKYARD?



SCIENCE
EAST

The only tools you need to explore nature are your senses. Developing a habit of paying attention to the sights, sounds, and smells of the outdoors can make your backyard a classroom and every walk outside a field trip.

Reinforcing observational skills with young children by incorporating colours, shapes, and patterns into your outdoor adventures is as simple as sticking a few extra objects in your pocket.

What do you need?

- A sturdy pair of boots or shoes
- Sun protection
- An exploring partner (not required but highly recommended)
- 3 -5 small items that are easy for small hands to carry around, some suggestions:

- Paint chips
- Crayons
- Toy blocks

Extensions:

- Read a nature themed book before or after, try:
 - We're Going on a Nature Hunt by Steve Metzger
- Ask questions any time you're out and about
 - Are all tree needles the same colour? Or shape?
 - Can you find a square shaped rock? An oval shape?
 - How many different birds can you hear?

What do you do?

Explore! It can be your backyard, the park, or a walking trail. Take along a few items and try to find plants, rocks, or animals that match the colour or the shape of what you brought along. Any time you're doing science it's important to pay attention to detail.

Remember to always take care of the natural spaces around us by disturbing as little as possible, this way the next person can have the same opportunity to discover.

