

NATURE TREASURE HIDE & SEEK!



Play is a means of deep learning for young children. In Gaffield Children's Garden, we provide rich, open-ended Nature Play experiences. We are committed to it, knowing that these experiences will become an essential part of the child, will be transformed into intellectual pursuits, imaginative pursuits, support physical and emotional health, and promote positive regard for the Earth now and into adulthood. We encourage families to participate and replicate what we do here, in their own homes, apartments, and parks. Here is a recipe: **Nature Treasure Hide & Seek!**

SUPPLIES

- A special rock or collection of special rocks, depending on how many you want to hide.
- Narrow ribbon or yarn if you're going to utilize foraged objects.
- A shallow bowl, basket for a "home base."
- We used some rocks we had previously painted.

- A beautiful day, be it sunny, rainy, snowy, windy, hot or cold or mild.



WAYS TO PLAY

- Invite kiddos outdoors for a treasure hunt.
- Introduce the special rock that will be the treasure, or let kiddos forage for some special rocks or objects for the treasure.
- If you're going with foraged objects, mark them with a colorful ribbon to mark as the treasure.
- Hide object while seekers close their eyes.
- Seekers start to search!
- Treasures can be placed in the home base basket if using more than 1 treasure.

EXTEND THE PLAY

- Take turns hiding and seeking the treasure.
- Make up a song to sing while closing eyes. Make up a song to sing while seeking.
- Offer everyone in the group an object and have everyone hide theirs simultaneously.
- Half-hide a special object -- pet rock? tiny friend? special gem? -- in a location for passersby to notice.

CONSIDER

- There is no wrong way to play.
- After introducing the concept, let the children lead the play.
- The difference between play and activities largely comes down to who leads it. In play, children lead based on their own curiosity and interests. In activities, the adult's agenda is leading.

