Nest Spotting!

Animal homes & habitats

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 for Nature Play at Home: Nest Spotting!

WAYS TO PLAY

- All you need is to be dressed for the weather and to get outdoors.
- Model your curiosity about nests in trees: “hey, I’m wondering about that nest up there. Do you see it?”
- With the fall of the leaves, many nests are easier to see.
- If you’ve older children, bring some binoculars, too.

PLAY OUTDOORS

- Go outdoors for an adventure -- adventures are always way more fun than a ‘walk.’
- Invite kiddos to notice any nests in trees, shrubs, or even tall grasses.
- Invite speculation on who lives in the nest, whether they are currently inhabited.
- Back at home, considering reading a book about nests.

SOME BOOKS TO SHARE

- “A Nest is Noisy” by Hutts Aston & Long
- “Birds, Nests, and Eggs” by Boring & Garrow
- Nests: 50 Nests & the Birds that Built Them” by Sharon Beals
- “Whose Nest is This?” by Roermer & McLennan
- “Over and Under the Snow” by Messner & Neal

CONSIDER

- After introducing the game, remember to let the kiddos lead the way.
- Outdoor play is a natural way to foster children’s burgeoning understanding of themselves in relationship to the world.
- Spending time outdoors as a family fosters family values.
- Play is about fun. Also see our NPPU-at-Home: Build a Little Bird Nest for some extension play!