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# Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge



**Help Papers Series**  
**Support Materials for Parent/Child Programs**

**TOPIC:**

# Nature Programs & Projects

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## ***Nature Programs & Projects***

### **Why Nature Programs & Projects:**

- To provide the parent and child an activity in which they can participate and grow together,
- To help the child develop observational skills,
- To provide experiences for the child, which will lead to lifetime interests.
- To develop an appreciation of nature in all forms, i.e. *“To seek and preserve the beauty of the Great Spirit’s work in forest, field and stream”*.

### **When/where are Nature Programs & Projects appropriate:**

There is really no particular time when any type of activity should be pursued. However, with Nature Programs & Projects there are things always occurring that would lend itself to this type of activity.

- A campout, where time will be spend outside and the opportunity is at hand to observe and investigate.
- A vacation, when time is spent away from home in a different region or just in the next town. This presents a situation to observe something new.
- A change in seasons. Each change presents many changes that we sometimes forget about, unless we look for them: leaves changing colors or leaves budding out; animals birthing their young and caring for them; animals hibernating or migrating in the fall; flowers budding in the spring and drying out in the fall and spreading their seeds.

### **What should the Nature Programs & Projects be about:**

The interest and comprehension of six to nine year olds must be kept in mind in the development of nature projects. Nature studies may include any of the following, but remember, not in great detail or length.

- Rocks, minerals, soils, and conservation.
- Trees, leaves, wood, fruit, seeds or nuts.
- Animals: wild animals, dogs, cats, horses, and other domestic animals.
- Birds: land birds, waterfowl, and domestic fowl, such as chickens, duck, and turkeys.
- Insects, butterflies, snakes.
- Flowers and seeds.
- Fish

## **Great Lakes Region – Help Papers Series – Nature Programs & Projects**

### **Where can Nature Programs & Projects ideas be found:**

There are a number of sources that are available for project ideas. The only limitation is how much time to be spent on preparation by the parents and how much time is to be allocated to the program or project. Of course, if it is seen that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for one of these activities, it can be built on or expanded according to the interest of the group. A few sources are:

- Your local park system nature center.
- The child's science book from school.
- You're public library.

### **Where can Nature Programs & Projects ideas be found (cont.):**

- Book stores.
- The Internet; by searching on 'children's nature crafts, activities' you will have access to many free aids and help.
- The experiences of other people within your program.
- Local sportsman's club is many times willing to put on programs for kids (i.e. fishing days, birding outings, and gardening clubs).
- Local sporting goods stores, will have programs for kids, and many times the sponsoring store will have free give-aways.