Discovering Nature

Is your little one curious about nature? Bring it to life with the *Discovering Nature* board book series and these easy toddler- and preschool-appropriate activities!

Curious About Birds



Build a bird nest – Gather some straw, sticks, grass, pine needles, and leaves, and weave the materials into a round, circle shape. Don't forget to leave a space in the middle for mama bird!

Go to a bird symphony – Lie down on a blanket in the yard. What do you hear? Listen for the different sounds and calls birds make. It's like a beautiful orchestra!

Make a bird feeder — Spread a layer of peanut butter around a pine cone and roll it in bird seed. Tie a string at the top of the pine cone and hang it from a tree. Then watch as the birds fly in!

Curious About Insects



Make your own bug jar — Take a glass jar, poke holes in the lid, and fill it with a little grass, leaves, and a twig. Head out into your backyard for a bug hunt and fill your vessel with an insect or two. What do you observe about their looks and behavior? Don't forget to set them free after!

Create a butterfly garden – Did you know you can create spaces in your yard that will actually attract beautiful butterflies? Check out these easy <u>suggestions!</u>

Make a honeybee watering station – Honeybees need water to survive, and it's easy to help. Grab a flower pot or shallow container, fill it with water, and put some stones, marbles, or even wine corks on top so the bees have somewhere to perch while they drink.

Curious About Mammals



Go on a mammal hunt – Make a list of mammals you might see in your yard (field mouse, chipmunk, bat, squirrel, etc.). Then hunt away, checking off each one you see.

Visit your local aquarium or zoo – What mammals do you see? Dolphins, whales, polar bears? Giraffes, bison? Talk about their similar characteristics.

Create a Mammal ABCs book – A is for antelope, B is for bear, and so on! Write out each letter, cut out pictures, and make your own Mammal ABCs book. Or if you're digitally inclined, make a PowerPoint (or other, similar) presentation featuring each letter along with mammal images.

