

Nature Walks & Fall Writing

Now that you and your kids have gotten used to the rhythm of the school week, you are back to enjoying down time on the weekends. Autumn is upon us! The leaves are changing colors, and nature is providing beautiful scenery for a memorable walk in the woods.

Give your children an experience they can write about by looking for a nearby park with trails through the trees. Don't forget to pack a lunch, and check out the tips below for ways to pack in some learning as well!



Nature Noises

Leaves crunching
 Birds chirping
 Wind blowing
 Trees moving
 Squirrel climbing
 Goose honking

- ❖ Choose a beautiful leaf you find on the ground. **Draw a picture of the leaf and write as many describing words as you can** to capture the look and feel of the leaf.
- ❖ **Look and listen for small animals in the park.** Keep a list in the journal of how many you see, and those you see traces of (nests, tracks in the mud, feathers, etc.) Add check marks or tally marks for those animals you see repeatedly.
- ❖ Show your child how we use our senses when walking out in nature. Describe what you see, hear, smell, and feel as you are walking. Then you can each write a journal entry describing your experience by using all of your senses. **Talking before writing helps children to more easily express themselves on paper.**
- ❖ **Borrow a book from the library** to bring on your walk to help identify different types of trees.
- ❖ **Help your child write a list poem** (like the one above) of all of the noises they hear. Offer your own ideas if needed.
- ❖ **Bring along a magnifying glass** (which can often be found in dollar stores) and invite your child to take a look underneath a rock or a log. Discuss what you find! Use colored pencils or crayons to create a detailed drawing with labels.
- ❖ Collect as many different colored fallen leaves as you can find. **Make a list of the colors** – and try to come up with new, creative words to describe each color, like the colors in the crayon box! For example, instead of yellow, use *battered popcorn*.
- ❖ **Be sure to date each entry in the journal.** This way, you will be able to see the progress your child makes as their skills grow.