

The Big Outdoors

HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will be learning about nature, and we will investigate how things in nature can change.

We will read about different environments and observe the beauty of nature. Children will learn about interesting changes that occur, such as how the Grand Canyon formed and how the water cycle works. They will also write a poem about things they like in nature.

BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

Big Idea Words

Reinforce these important topic words when you read or talk with your child:

cycle
evaporation
liquid

Try to incorporate questions like these into everyday conversations:

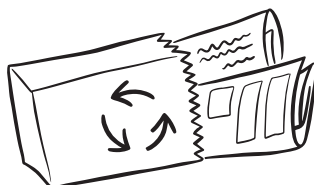
- What can you tell me about the life cycle of a butterfly?
- How does the sun's heat cause evaporation in a puddle of water?
- What kinds of liquids do you like to drink?

Let's Read Together

Make a special time and place to read with your child every day.

During this module about the natural world, try these activities during your reading time together:

- Imitate animal sounds and other sounds from nature when you read about them in books.
- Read about recycling and start a recycling project. Collect paper or plastics to recycle at home or to donate at a recycling center.
- Talk about how water is important to our environment. Read articles about water and think of ways to use less water.



Word Play

Play with words to help develop skills that are important for reading.

• Week 1: A Cut Is Not Cute!

Write and say the word *cut*. Add *-e*, changing *cut* to *cute*. Stress the long *u* vowel sound. Repeat with *tub/tube* and *cub/cube*.

• Week 2: I Spy ea Words

Play *I Spy* while reading a book. Look for words with the short *e* sound spelled *ea*, such as *head* and *bread*. Read the words, noting that the two vowels make one sound.

• Week 3: Vowel Team Challenge: ai or ay

See who can write the most words with the vowel team *ai* or *ay*. Examples include *stay*, *day*, *player*, and *sail*, *snail*, *rain*. Read aloud your word lists.