

Learning on the Go: Literacy Tips for Young Children

Outdoor Learning

One of the wonderful things about Montana is summer! Here are some easy tips for making outdoor summer activities into learning fun for your child:

- Summer brings lots of opportunities for science “lessons.” White serviceberry flowers in spring turn into purple berries in mid-summer. Throwing a stick in the creek makes a “boat” that floats downstream, but a rock sinks to the bottom—unless you can make it skip first! Heat and clouds can make lightning, and the sound of the lightning travels more slowly than the light.
- Math concepts to work on include size, matching and sorting, and counting. Find small, medium and large trees in the woods and measure the size of the trunks with your hands or arms—or take along a tape measure! Bring an empty egg carton when you take a walk and find something different for each hole—a pine cone, a small stone, etc. Then count and sort them by color, size, or texture.
- New experiences bring opportunities to expand vocabulary. Think of one new word every day and use it several times to help your child learn it. And don’t forget the books! Camping and fishing can be made more fun by reading “Fred and Ted Go Camping” or “Curious George Goes Fishing.” The library can supply you with these and other books.

Whatever your summer brings, be sure to take time to help your child learn!