

Table of Contents

Growing Up WILD: A WILD Start.....	6
Connecting Children to Nature	7
Developmentally Appropriate Practice.....	7
Nature Play.....	8
Nature in the Classroom	8
Math Connections	9
Language and Literacy Connections	9
Healthy Kids.....	9
Sparking Creativity	10
Scientific Inquiry	10
Assessing Children’s Learning	11
Connections to Head Start Outcomes	11
Connections to NAEYC Standards	11
Respect for Living Things.....	12
Responsible Collecting.....	12
WILD about Safety	13
Activity Format.....	14

 The following activities are arranged in a general progression beginning with those featuring simple concepts and skills to those that are more complex. Educators are encouraged to select activities that most interest their children and meet educational objectives.

First Impressions	18
Children combine movement and math to show how they think and feel about animals.	
Ants on Parade	22
Children go outside to observe ant behavior and learn insect characteristics.	
Spider Web Wonders	26
Children learn about spiders and spider webs.	
Looking at Leaves	30
Children practice their observation skills by comparing leaves.	
In a Grasshopper’s World	34
Children observe grasshoppers in their natural habitat and study them in the classroom.	
Wiggling Worms	38
Children learn about and observe earthworms.	
What’s Wild?	42
Children engage in stories comparing the lives of a wild and a tame animal, then sort animals into categories.	
Wildlife Is Everywhere!	46
Children make observations and understand that wildlife is all around us.	
Lunch for a Bear	50
Children identify the kinds of foods that Black Bears eat by creating a plate of “bear food.”	
The Deep Blue Sea	54
Children develop an awareness of oceans and ocean life.	
Who Lives in a Tree?	58
Children develop an awareness of trees and some of the animals that call them “home.”	

Fishing Fun!	62
Children engage in a dramatic play fishing game and learn about fish.	
Hiding in Plain Sight	66
Children play a game of hide and seek to learn about important adaptations in many wild animals.	
Tracks!	70
Children explore animal tracks and make and compare tracks of their own.	
Grow as We Go	74
Children explore the life cycles of familiar wildlife and understand that living things grow and change.	
Backbone Bonanza	78
Children learn about vertebrates and some characteristics that distinguish them.	
Bird Beak Buffet	82
Children learn about the special functions of bird beaks.	
Terrific Turkeys	86
Children learn about Wild Turkeys.	
Owl Pellets	90
Children dissect an owl pellet and learn what owls eat.	
Oh Deer!	94
Children explore the parts of habitat in a physical activity.	
Seed Need	98
Children explore seeds as food for people and animals and learn how animals spread seeds.	
Show Me the Energy!	102
Children discover that all animals, including people, depend on plants as a food source, either directly or indirectly.	
Aqua Charades	106
Children explore the importance of water for people, animals, and plants.	
Wildlife Water Safari	110
Children discover water sources for local wildlife and create a field notebook.	
Field Study Fun	114
Children investigate a field study plot to observe plant and animal interactions over time.	
Wildlife as Symbols	118
Children explore how wild animals are used as symbols for a variety of purposes.	
Less Is More	122
Children learn that using less is a way of sharing resources.	
Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights	126
Acknowledgements	128
Copy Me Pages	130
Home Connections Cards	191
State Symbols	210
Children's Book List	214
Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework	230
Standard 2: NAEYC Accreditation Criteria for Curriculum	232
Expanded Index	237
Glossary	238
Incorporating Wildlife into Holiday Celebrations	242
Tips for Teachers	244
Listing of Appendices	245
Notes	246
Alphabetical Listing	248