

Park Explorer Adventure!

Let's get ready to explore the wonderful world waiting for us at the park!

Materials You'll Need:

- Magnifying glass (optional, but fun!)
- Small notebook or paper
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Small bag for collecting interesting (non-living) nature items like fallen leaves or acorns
- Bag for any trash we find
- Snack and water
- Comfortable walking shoes

Before We Go (At Home):

Talk about what a park is. What kinds of things do we see at a park? Trees? Swings? Animals? Ask: "What do you hope to see today?" Look at pictures of different trees, flowers, and maybe common park animals (squirrels, birds).

Our Park Adventure (At the Park):

1. **Nature Walk & I Spy:** Let's take a slow walk. What do you see? Play "I Spy" with nature words. "I spy something tall and green with bark." (Tree!) "I spy something small that flies." (Bird/Insect!)
2. **Tree Hug & Texture Rubbings:** Find a friendly tree. Feel the bark – is it rough or smooth? Give it a gentle hug! Place your paper on the bark and rub a crayon over it sideways to see the texture appear. Try this with leaves too!
3. **Leaf Hunt:** How many different shapes and colors of leaves can we find on the ground? Collect a few interesting ones in your bag (only ones already on the ground!).
4. **Bug Search (Optional):** Use your magnifying glass to look closely at the ground, under leaves (carefully!), or on plants. Do you see any tiny critters? Remember to just look, not touch, unless a grown-up says it's okay.
5. **Listening Station:** Find a quiet spot to sit for one minute. Close your eyes. What sounds do you hear? Birds chirping? Wind in the trees? People talking?
6. **Clean-Up Crew:** Parks are homes for plants and animals. It's important to keep them clean! If we see any trash, let's carefully put it in our trash bag to throw away properly.

Back Home Fun:

Look at the nature items you collected. Talk about them. Draw pictures in your notebook of your favorite things you saw at the park. What was the most interesting sound you heard? What was the prettiest flower or leaf you saw? Did you help keep the park clean?

Remember how important parks are for us and for nature! We need to take good care of them.