

Spring Intellectual Learning

It's spring! Lots of sunshine, nice weather, plants blossoming, hatching insects and muddy little hands; a perfect scenario for memorable experiences. As an educator, you need to take advantage of this "unplanned" environment. When you take your children for a nature walk and they stop to listen to the birds chirping and ask you "what is that teacher?"; embrace that learning opportunity, follow their interest and elaborate adding new words and extending their existing vocabulary. During this time of the year, nature provides you with a lot of free resources to support children's intellectual learning.



Intellectual learning is not memorization but guiding the children through a learning process in order to understand specific concepts. It is making connections to the real world, predicting future events, describing past events, analyzing data and explaining cause and effect. This process help children to think about and understand their world. Abilities required to process information, relate to caregivers and experience the world around them.

Try it today! Take them to do a "Nature walk".

If you don't know where to start visit the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) website.

You will find a variety of resources to guide you on your nature adventure. MESS provides you with ideas, vocabulary, list of materials, list of books, etc. Take a look at:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/marvelous-explorations-through-science-stories-mess>

Asking open ended questions is crucial when supporting critical thinking in young children. These are questions that require more than one word responses. Open ended questions help children to make connections, to retrieve acquired knowledge and apply it in context. Visit our website to get a list of open ended starters in English and Spanish!

"Nature fosters children's imagination, curiosity and sense of belonging".

Visit our webpage:

Mariateresaruiz.com

