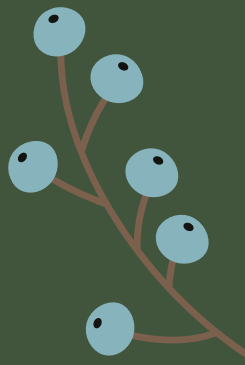


LITTLE GREEN EXPLORERS

BOMBECK FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



Thank you for all your support with the Nature Museum; we feel it has been a huge success! We would love to hear your thoughts, any frustrations, or suggestions you may have as we continue to grow this experience. We're striving to keep a family-centered balance in mind and are working to incorporate more interactive elements to increase engagement for everyone involved.

WINTER BIRDING



Winter birding is an engaging way for preschoolers to explore nature, even in colder weather. Set up a cozy observation space by placing feeders near a window or outdoor area. Simple pine cone feeders made with peanut butter and seeds attract winter birds like cardinals, chickadees, and woodpeckers. High-energy seeds such as sunflower seeds work well, providing essential nutrition for the birds and plenty of viewing opportunities for children.

Encourage children to observe unique winter behaviors, like how birds fluff up their feathers to stay warm. Create an observation chart or "bird diary" for children to record their sightings, helping them build a connection to the birds they see regularly. This simple activity encourages a sense of wonder and curiosity about nature.

Introduce science concepts by explaining how feathers act as insulation, much like a coat, and how different beak shapes help birds find food in challenging conditions. Try setting up a "bird buffet" with various seeds so children can observe which types attract different bird species, sparking discussions on how animals adapt to winter.

Conclude with reflective questions, such as "Why do some birds stay here in winter?" and "How do you think birds keep warm?" Provide small journals for children to draw or write about their birding experiences, helping them develop a personal connection to the wildlife around them and fostering early conservation awareness.

GIFT WRAP WITH REUSABLES

Instead of using single-use wrapping paper, encourage children to get creative with sustainable wrapping options. **Fabric Wraps:** Use old scarves, tea towels, or fabric scraps to wrap gifts. This practice, known as furoshiki, is a traditional Japanese method of gift wrapping that not only looks beautiful but also eliminates the need for disposable materials. You can also use recycled paper, like newspapers or old magazines, to create unique gift wraps. Children can help decorate the paper with drawings, stamps, or even natural elements like pinecones, twine, or dried flowers. This way, you're reducing waste while creating something special and personalized.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Create eco-friendly holiday cards using recycled paper or cardboard. Children can get creative by decorating the cards with drawings, stamps, or handprints. Skip the glitter and opt for natural embellishments such as pressed flowers, buttons, or fabric scraps, which add texture and charm without harming the environment. If you prefer a digital option, electronic cards are another great sustainable choice. Children can design and personalize e-cards, sending them to friends and family, which cuts down on paper waste. This also introduces kids to digital creativity and online communication in an eco-friendly way.

BAKING

Introduce sustainable baking by using organic, locally sourced ingredients. Choose recipes that use fewer processed ingredients and teach kids about the benefits of choosing eco-friendly options like whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. Consider making treats like banana bread, oat cookies, or fruit muffins with seasonal produce. Encourage children to measure ingredients, mix the dough, and decorate with natural toppings like dried fruits or nuts. Use reusable baking mats or parchment paper instead of disposable liners. Talk to kids about the importance of reducing food waste by using leftovers creatively in baking or other meals.



SUSTAINABLE SWAP

TIP: When it comes to holiday trees, consider making a sustainable swap! Opt for a real tree if it's grown locally and sustainably. Real trees absorb CO2 while they grow and are biodegradable, making them an eco-friendly option when composted or recycled after use. If you already own a fake tree, keep using it for many years to reduce its environmental impact. Just be sure to take good care of it to extend its lifespan and keep it out of landfills.

**CHILDREN WHO LOVE NATURE WILL
ULTIMATELY GROW UP TO DEFEND IT**