



Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- April 17, 2015



Dear Parents,

With Earth Day approaching, we are celebrating the Earth in a variety of ways in our classrooms and school. Next week, your family will have the opportunity to enjoy a week of **Family Focus Homework**, which will invite you to enjoy the outdoors with your children and read and talk about ways to respect and enjoy the natural world.

Here are some additional ideas, courtesy of the National Audubon Society, for ways to engage your children in outdoor learning and play after school and on weekends:

* **I Spy:** Draw your children's attention to the natural world whenever you can, whether you're walking outside or looking out the window. Simple statements like, "Look at those baby flowers pushing out of the ground!" or "I see a bird making its nest." will invite children to observe and engage in the natural world around them.

* **Fresh Air Fun:** Find ways to maximize your children's time outside. Make backyard and park play a regular part of their activities. Children need to run, climb, and roll down grassy hills!



* **Keep it Simple:** Children don't need a carload of tools and toys to entertain themselves outdoors. A simple pail and shovel may be all they need. Let them use their imaginations!

* **Moon Walk:** Go for a nighttime walk. Take a flashlight and explore one area not lit up by electric lights. What do you see? Hear? Smell?

* **Home Tweet Home:** Make a bird feeder and start feeding and watching birds out your window.

* **Bug Watch:** Head outdoors and have your children find as many different kinds of insects as they can. Bring a magnifying glass for a close-up look!



* **Puddle Stompers:** The next time there's a major downpour, venture outside with your children. Let them discover the joys of stomping in puddles and seeing what the wet world looks like.

* **Harvest Time:** As often as possible, take your children to orchards, wild berry patches, farms, and other places where they can pick fruits and vegetables. Grow some of your own in a backyard garden.

* **Car-Free and Care-Free:** Try to replace at least one car trip a week with a walk or a bike ride. It's healthy for people and the environment.



Thankfully it's finally warm enough to be outdoors! Enjoy the beautiful weekend!

Lynn Herschlein

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