

Outdoor Activities from Math Amigos!

Take “color walks”.

As seasons change there are lots of changes outdoors. Why do plants change color?



Take note of sounds and shapes.

While outdoors, ask your kids to walk quietly and try to name the sounds they hear and the shapes they see.

Take a “touch walk”.

Have your child touch different *safe* things: rough tree bark, smooth leaves, wet grass, dirt, and rocks. Why do they feel different?

Look for patterns.

When kids find pine cones, yucca pods, cactus fruit, or flowers, **ask if they see any patterns** in these seeds, fruits, or flowers.



How do seeds get around?

Fun with socks! Learn how seeds travel by putting on a pair of socks over a child’s shoes and walking in a small area outdoors.

It doesn’t take long for socks to collect seeds! Socks are like fur on animals – carrying seeds around from one place to another.

Play outdoor games.

Games like “I Spy” and “Treasure Hunt” can teach kids a lot while they’re having fun.



Take a hike.

Kids love to hunt for twigs, leaves, rocks, and other things that are on the ground.

- What’s growing?
- Are there trees in the area?
- What animals live in trees?
- Why do we need trees?

When you get back home, put these “treasures” out where they can be seen by family and friends.

Happy wandering!

STEM: Let's Go a 'Wandering! by Judy Reinhartz (Professor emeritus at The University of Texas at El Paso, board member of the Santa Fe Alliance for Science and co-lead of its Adopt-A-School program), 2020. <https://www.sftumbleweeds.com/articles/lets-go-awandering>

Photos: Selections from Watch Me Play, Watch Me Learn in Nature," by Ellen Biderman (UNM Family Development Program), 2012.