



Merry Lea

*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Exploring Nature PreK

Program Description

Students explore seasons as spring wakes up around them! Get out on the trails and investigate adaptations, the diversity of life and ecosystem interactions. This is a 1.5 hour program for PreK. It is either offered in the morning or afternoon. Groups are more than welcome to extend their time by bringing a picnic lunch and eat in the Council House.

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Discover there is great diversity among plants and animals
- Learn about sequencing through life cycles and the seasons
- Explore what plants and animals are doing in the spring

Program Outline

1. Hike

Students head out on our trails to get a close-up view of what plants and animals are doing this time of year. They participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games and other hands-on activities.

2. Vernal Pond Exploration (Spring Only)

While on the hike, students stop at one of our vernal ponds to search for macroinvertebrates and amphibians living in the water.

Vocabulary

- Season
- Spring
- Fall
- Winter
- Summer
- Life Cycle
- Senses

Quick Facts

Season Spring: April - May
Summer: June

Grades PreK

Program Length 1.5 hours

Maximum # of Students 80 Students

Early Learning Foundations

SC2.2 Recognize seasonal and weather related changes. Communicate awareness of seasonal changes.

SC3.1 Demonstrate awareness of life. Compare attributes of living organisms. Ask questions and conduct investigations to understand life science.

SC5.1 Demonstrate scientific curiosity. Observe with a focus on details. Discuss ways that people can affect the environment in positive and negative ways.