KOCO Child Care Center

KOCOMotions

Published monthly by Kids of Chatham Organization, Inc. March, 2023

Check out KOCO's

Cat in the Hat Challenge

In honor of Dr. Seuss

Photos submitted by families of their own pets wearing hats (inspired by Arlo & Jane's cat Norah).

⬆ Happy St. Patrick's Day from room 111

Finally, SNOW! ⬇

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 4
Preschool Expo 2023 CANCELLED
East Hampton Public Library
10:00-12:00

MARCH 6
Munson's Chocolates Fundraiser
Orders due for delivery by Easter

MARCH 8 & 9
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal Memorial & Center only
4 & 5 graders at KOCO (not at EHMS)

MARCH 21
Rock your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day
Wear silly socks to support our friends with Down Syndrome

MARCH 30
Social-Emotional Learning
A Family Discussion (see next page)
presented by Judy Goldberg
6:00 pm KOCO Room 101
Register: email director@koco4kids.org

WELCOME TO KOCO!

Please help us welcome our new afternoon staff member Charlie Caron, Miss Laurie's son, who will be working in room 101 each day after school. Welcome to the KOCO Family, Charlie!

MUNSON'S CHOCOLATES
Three Generations of Chocolatiers - Est. 1946
2022-2023

KOCO's Annual Fund Raiser

Order by March 6 for delivery by Easter. Scan QR code to order online.

munsonschocolates.com/online-fundraising/kids-of-chatham-organization-inc-koco-child-care-centerct-1/

2·1·1 Child Care

United Way

United Way of Connecticut

Invitation for all families

Social Emotional Learning

There are a whole bunch of big feelings in little bodies! Managing emotions can be challenging. The strategies we discuss will support your child with skills that will last a lifetime – all the while building strong bonds between parent and child. Invite families to have a conversation about how they can help their child nagivate these feelings.

www.211childcare.org
1-800-505-1000
211childcare@ctunitedway.org

An Early Childhood Specialist from 211 Child Care will be facilitating a discussion and providing resources for the families in our program.

March 30, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

To sign up contact: Janet or Laurie at KOCO

860-267-6080 or director@koco4kids.org

KOCO Child Care Center

12 Long Crossing Road

East Hampton, CT 06424

20 IDEAS FOR 20 MINUTES OUTSIDE.

GENERATION WILD

Because quick nature breaks are the ultimate mood boosters.

1

HOST A MUD PARTY

Get the mud and fun flowing. Try mud painting. Make mud pies. Squish mud between your toes. All it takes is a big bucket, dirt, water and a little imagination.

2

ADD WATER & CHILL

Fish for marbles. Fill a baby pool with ice and water. Then add marbles and try to fish them out with your toes. Or do a frozen T-shirt challenge. Freeze tees and water in plastic bags. See which friend can break the ice to wear one first.

3

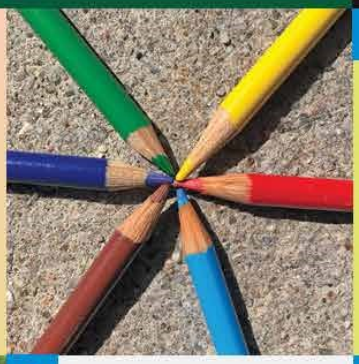
CAMP IN YOUR BACKYARD

Just pitch a tent or sleep under the stars in your yard. Make some s'mores and enjoy an adventure close to home – and indoor toilets!

4

GO ON A COLOR SCAVENGER HUNT

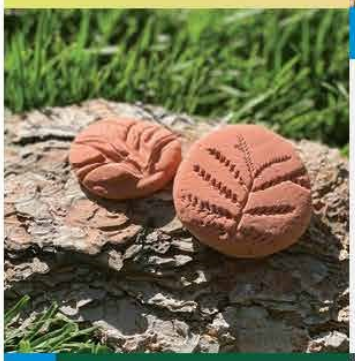
Search for things outdoors that match each of the six colors here. Could be flowers, bugs, the sky – whatever catches your eye. Bonus points if you capture a photo or drawing of what you find.



5

MAKE SUN PRINTS

Place colored construction paper outside in the sun. Make a design on top of it with leaves, sticks, rocks and other stuff. Then let it sit out, and in a few hours, the sun will turn it into a wild piece of art. Don't forget to sign your masterpiece!



6

MAKE NATURE FOSSILS

Form clay into circular shapes about a half-inch thick. Find interesting rocks, leaves, sticks and plants that you can press into each piece of clay and remove. Boom! Instant fossils!

7

SET UP A TOY CARWASH

Here's something cool to do on a hot day. Grab your toy trucks and cars and hold your own mini carwash. And if a water fight happens to break out, it'll be even cooler.

8

PLAY FLASHLIGHT TAG

At dusk, grab some friends and a flashlight, and it's game on! Whoever gets tagged with the light beam is it.

9

TURN LUNCH INTO A REAL PICNIC

Any meal is more fun outdoors. So, grab a blanket, a basket of your favorite snacks and a shady patch of grass. To make it extra sweet, cut fruit into flower shapes and munch away.

10

CREATE A BIKE OBSTACLE COURSE

Grab some chalk and draw a curvy track on your sidewalk or driveway. Add a stopwatch and crown a track champion for the fastest lap.

For more adventures, join us at GenerationWild.com

GOCO

Track how much time you spend outside.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

11

MAKE A SUNDIAL

Grab a stick and 12 rocks. Paint numbers 1-12 on each rock. At noon, plant the stick straight up in a sunny spot. Place rock #12 at the end of the stick's shadow. At 1:00 p.m., do the same with rock #1 and repeat every hour until sunset. Return the next morning to mark shadows on the hour from sunrise to noon.

12

GROW VEGGIES FROM SCRAPS

Place the end of some celery or romaine lettuce in a bowl with a little water. Set it in a sunny spot and watch for roots to appear. Then plant it outdoors or in a pot and watch it grow. No seeds necessary!

13

GO ON A SAFARI

Have someone hide toy animals outside and let the search begin. If they're hidden too well, hints like "cold!" "warm!" and "hot!" will help guide you.

14

MAKE LEAF ZOMBIES

Collect rocks and interestingly shaped leaves and make zombie, ghost and monster faces out of them.

15

PAINT WITH WATER ON YOUR SIDEWALK

Grab a paintbrush and a container of water and get your Van Gogh on. Watch what happens to your painting as the sun heats it up.

16

"COLLECT" SOME BUGS

Grab a camera and explore your yard or local park. See how many bugs you can add to your photo collection. If you're nice, they might even smile for the camera.

17

MAKE A ROLY-POLY HABITAT

Get a container that allows for airflow, and fill it with dirt, dead leaves, rotting wood and moss. Then add some roly-polies. After having some fun watching it, set them free.

18

FEED YOUR BIRD CURIOSITY

Hang up a bird feeder and then sit back and watch the airshow. Keep a list of how many birds visit, make drawings of them and keep it all in a journal.

19

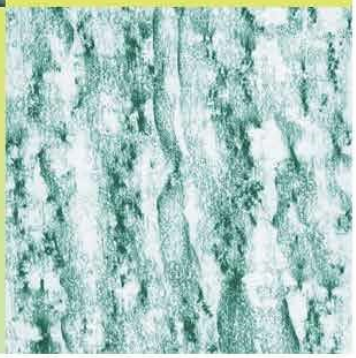
TAKE A MICRO HIKE

Rope off a 3' x 3' area in the grass with string. Then crouch down and use your fingers to move the grass and dig in the dirt. Use a magnifying glass to see what lives there. It's a new, close-up way to see the world.

20

MAKE TREE RUBBINGS

Nature is one amazing artist – and you can be too. Just hold a sheet of paper against a tree trunk and rub over it with crayons or pencils. Try it against different trees to complete your art collection.



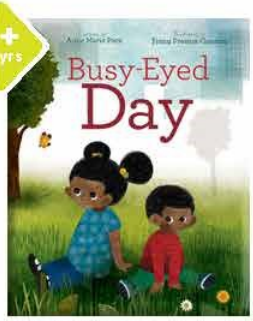
Get out there and tag us #20MinutesOutside

@GenerationWildColorado

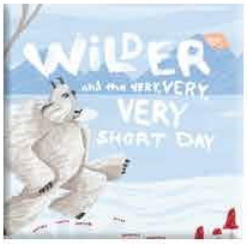
Generation Wild Kids Reading List

These outdoor-oriented kids' books are Generation Wild tried, tested and approved!
Each book title links out to Amazon, but we recommend you check your local library to see what's available.

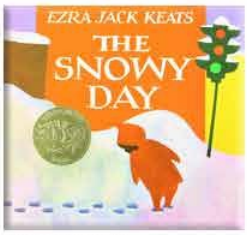
2+ yrs



Busy-Eyed Day
Anne Marie Pace



Wilder and the Very, Very, Very Short Day
Generation Wild Community
*Disponible en español.

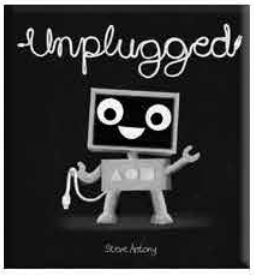


The Snowy Day
Ezra Jack Keats
*Disponible en español.

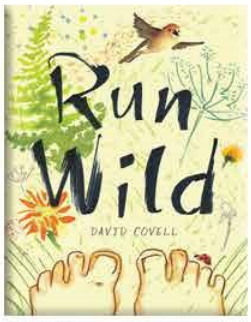
3+ yrs

Wild
Emily Hughes

Daddy, Me, and the Magic Hour
Laura Krauss Melmed

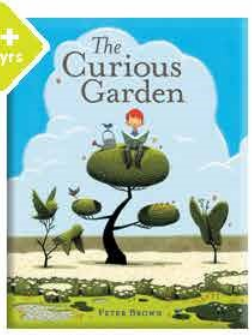


Unplugged
Steve Antony



Run Wild
David Covell

4+ yrs



The Curious Garden
Peter Brown
*Disponible en español.

The Hidden Life of a Toad
Doug Wechsler

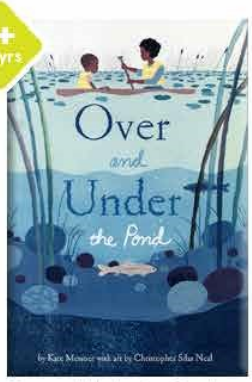
Where the Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak
*Disponible en español.

A Stick is an Excellent Thing
Marilyn Singer

Give Bees a Chance
Bethany Barton

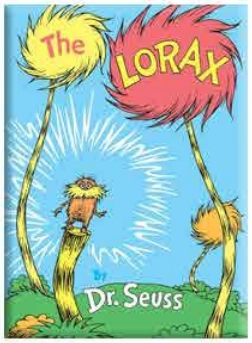
Generation Wild Kids Reading List

5+ yrs



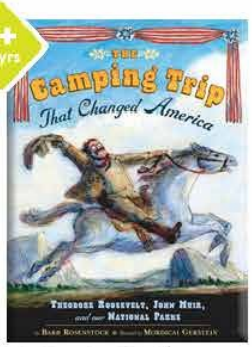
Over and Under the Pond
Kate Messner

Secrets of the Garden
Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

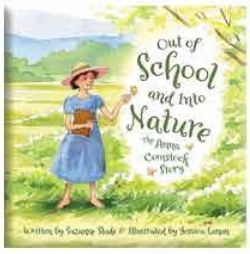


The Lorax
Dr. Seuss
*Disponible en español.

6+ yrs

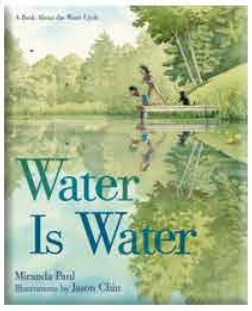


The Camping Trip That Changed America
Barb Rosenstock



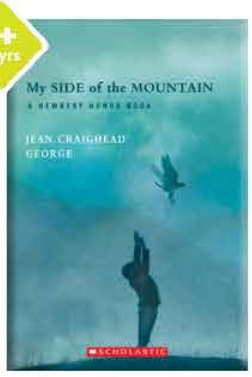
Out of School and Into Nature
Suzanne Slade

Forest Has a Song
Amy Ludwig Vanderwater



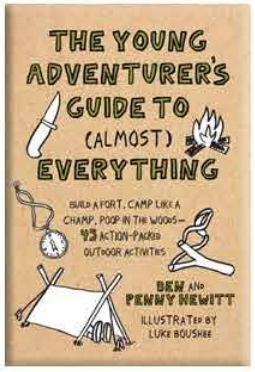
Water Is Water
Miranda Paul

8+ yrs



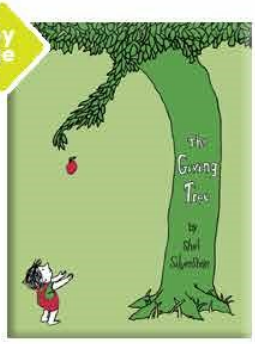
My Side of the Mountain
Jean Craighead George
*Disponible en español.

Put On Your Owl Eyes
Devin Franklin



The Young Adventurer's Guide to (Almost) Everything
Ben and Penny Hewitt

Any Age



The Giving Tree
Shel Silverstein
*Disponible en español.

If You Were the Moon
Laura Purdie Salas