

Try these fun outdoors activities to support your child's literacy development in grades 3 through 5!

Found Natural Object Story

Tackle this outdoors activity to enhance children's narrative writing skills! This activity involves creativity and a demonstration of different story elements.

MATERIALS:

Choose an outdoor setting for this activity such as a park, hiking trail, or camp site. You do not need any materials just a positive attitude! (*Optional*: paper stapled together or a booklet to write down the story you create).

DIRECTIONS:

1. As a family, work together to collect at least 10 items from nature (e.g., stick, leaf, rock).
2. Together, create one story that includes all items found (e.g., if you found a stick, a leaf, and a large rock, your story should include all these items).
3. Have fun telling the story with your family!
4. *Modify*: **Before starting this activity**, create a list of the story elements (e.g., characters, setting, problem, solution) with your child.
5. *Extend*: Write down your story so that it becomes one of the books in your home.

Inventing a New Outdoor Game

Tackle this outdoors activity to enhance children's informational writing skills! This activity involves creativity and a demonstration of procedural writing skills.

MATERIALS:

Choose an outdoor setting for this activity such as a park, hiking trail, or camp site. You will need a writing utensil (pencil or pen) and paper. Included is a template you may use.

DIRECTIONS:

1. As a family, come up with a new outdoor game.
2. Write the instructions for your new game using the game template.
3. Have fun playing your new game!
4. *Modify*: Give a list of elements required for designing a game:
 - Objective: what is the purpose of the game?
 - Materials: what do you need?
 - Step by step instructions: how do we play the game?
 - Outcome: how do you win the game?
5. *Extend*: Create a game that utilizes a literacy element (e.g., vocabulary or comprehension questions)!

Game Title _____

Objective: what is the purpose of the game?

Materials: what do you need?

Step by step instructions: how do you play the game?

Outcome: how do you win the game?
