

Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle came to town,
A-ridin' on a pony;
He stuck a feather in his hat
And called it macaroni.

Yankee Doodle keep it up,
Yankee Doodle Dandy;
Mind the music and the steps
And with the girls be handy.

*(Use a hat and large feather
to keep this song interactive)*



Nature Walks

This may sound boring, but the time spend on a leisurely 1/4 mile walk will ignite your child's imagination and senses. Remember not to rush—the goal is to use your senses and look, smell, feel, and hear. Try not to drill by asking too many questions that have only one right answer, like “what color is that flower?”

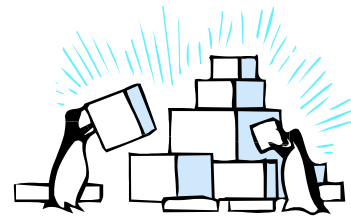
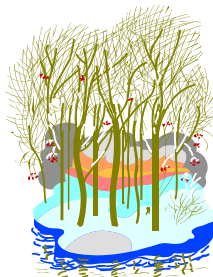
Look at the overall landscape and also focus on the tinier objects such as the pattern on a leaf or an ant hill.

Lift rocks up gently to see what is underneath.

Watch the birds fly. Watch the bugs crawl.

Look for animals and their tracks. Older children may enjoy bringing a camera to remember their discoveries. All children will enjoy bringing along food for snack al fresco!

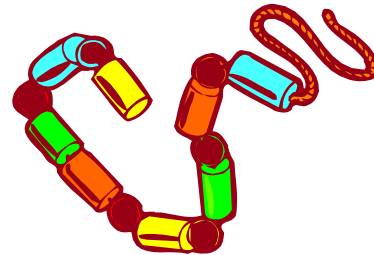
This activity can be continued inside by offering an array of art supplies to pictorialize the experience.



Sugar Cube Structures

This activity uses those little muscles in the fingers for writing in school.

Set your child up with a box of sugar cubes. Of course, you should closely monitor to child to be sure the cubes aren't making their way into their mouth. This is essentially the same activity as block play but with more skill needed. Structures can be glued, but if no glue is used the cubes can be used for building again. Children may also enjoy a picture of their creation before it is disassembled.



Noodle Lacing

If you have some rigatoni, penne or other long, tubular pasta, then you have materials to engage your child while you prepare dinner.

Offer some pasta and either pipe cleaners or thick yarn with taped ends. The pipe cleaners will be easiest. Your child does not have to make a “necklace”. Offer the materials and watch their creativity unfold.

If you only have small pasta, even spaghetti noodles, offer a handful along with a piece of thick, dark paper and glue to create a collage.