

- ★ Read in a hammock
- ★ Climb a tree (and read or draw in your tree)
- ★ Create a nature collage
- ★ Create a Signs of Spring backyard scavenger hunt
- ★ Create a checkerboard from natural materials and play checkers with a family member
- ★ Create a small flower/vegetable garden and measure plant growth
- ★ Research, design and build a pollinator water station
- ★ Create a checkerboard from natural materials and play checkers with a family member
- ★ Build a toad house
- ★ Keep a cloud journal: Go cloud watching and sketch what you see
- ★ Build a fort, a fairy house or a gnome home
- ★ Keep a moon diary: Examine and draw the changing moon each night
- ★ Create a backyard beach vacation
- ★ Explore, photograph, and dissect a flower
- ★ Dig for worms and use a magnifying glass to examine its parts. Do worms have heads or tails?
- ★ Follow an ant trail
- ★ Camp out in your backyard
- ★ Take a color walk and use crayons to document each color you see.
- ★ Go on a backyard bird watching expedition
- ★ Make mud cakes and use the sun to bake them
- ★ Research, design, build, and use a solar oven
- ★ Make leaf, rock or bark rubbings
- ★ Create a “My Backyard” field guide
- ★ Gaze at the stars and identify constellations
- ★ Watch and draw a sunset
- ★ Paint with mud
- ★ Create a fairy garden
- ★ Explore a tree: examine the trunk, branches, and leaves--how does your tree change each day?
- ★ Create a treasure map and have your family find the hidden treasure
- ★ Enjoy a backyard campfire
- ★ Make a birdfeeder from recycled materials, fill it with seed identify the birds that come to the feeder and keep a log of activity, graph the amount of each type that visit
- ★ Create a compass challenge course
- ★ Go on a backyard bug hunt-lift rocks or logs (the correct way & be sure to put them back when you are done) Make a research poster about the insects you find
- ★ Frogs are calling, listen for them and try to identify the frog by its call, keep a journal of the different frogs you hear and research each type
- ★ Shades of green hunt- being in nature is excellent for your eyesight-how many different shades of green can you find
- ★ Get to know your yard/neighborhood-make a map showing all the buildings, trees, shrubs, gardens, etc

This list was compiled by Pioneer Springs Community School, Charlotte, North Carolina

- ★ Paint happy rocks and distribute them in the neighborhood so whoever finds it gets a smile.
- ★ Hide a rock and mark it on your map. Have a family member try to find it using your map
- ★ Keep a record of spring changes, note dates of when flowers and trees in your yard/neighborhood bloom and when trees leaf out. Try to figure out why each bloomed or leafed when it did.
- ★ Track the weather in a weather journal-keep a record of the temperature, types of clouds & wind speed. Be the family meteorologist & provide the forecast for your family each day or record the forecast and post it for others to watch
- ★ Write an adventure story starring your favorite backyard critter
- ★ Dig up a little of our NC beautiful clay soil and form a ball, stash some seeds inside, let it dry and become a guerilla gardener, spreading new life in a spot that seemed unplantable
- ★ Make up your own Fairy Tale using an invasive plant or animal as your villain, illustrate it and read it to a family member or your class
- ★ Hummingbirds have already begin their migration back, fill a feeder and observe which hummingbirds are back
- ★ Some butterfly species are viewable now, start a butterfly journal or butterfly color hunt and see how many you spot during your time at home
- ★ Design an obstacle course for a small critter in your yard or in a box. Millipedes and beetles are fun to watch
- ★ Check for signs of erosion by your home/apartment. What is causing it? Observe & experiment and advise family members on how best to control the erosion
- ★ Search for rocks, build a rock tower-challenge your family to see who can create the tallest rock tower
- ★ Find sticks and see how tall of a stick tower you can create-make it a challenge with your classmates and photograph yours next to a ruler or yardstick
- ★ Create a mandala using only natural materials, only natural green items, only rocks, etc
- ★ Hunt for four leaf clovers on St Patrick's day