

Environmental Experiences For Early Childhood - Reading Connections

Activity	Book Title	Author	ISBN	Publishing Information	Description	Reader Age Group
1	<i>I Took a Walk</i>	Cole, Henry	0688151159	New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998	This richly illustrated book takes you through woods and meadows and beside streams and ponds, where you discover butterflies and box turtles, wildflowers and water birds, in foldout panorama pages.	4–8
1	<i>The Shape of Things</i>	Dodds, Dayle	1564026981	Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1996	A square is just a square until it becomes a house in this clever book. A circle becomes a spinning Ferris wheel, and when some string and a tail are added, it becomes a kite flying high in the sky. With sprightly rhymes and energetic illustrations, this book reveals that shapes are everywhere.	3–5
1	<i>Animal Houses</i>	Fisher, Aileen	0837208599	Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1996	Discover the joys of nature observation and exploration through the eyes of a child. A colorful addition to a unit on shapes, this book compares the square houses of people with the more rounded dwellings of different animals.	3–6
1	<i>What Joe Saw</i>	Hines, Anna Grossnickle	0688131239	New York: Greenwillow Books, 1994	This cheerful picture book encourages acceptance of individual differences. Joe often takes his time, which allows him to often see things that others miss. Take a walk with Joe to experience some of the small, natural wonders that are easy to overlook.	3–6
1	<i>So Many Circles, So Many Squares</i>	Hoban, Tana	0688151655	New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998	The author provides an introduction to circles and shapes with wonderful pictures of these two shapes found in the natural world.	2–5
1	<i>Nature Spy</i>	Rotner, Shelley, and Ken Kreisler	0027778851	New York: Atheneum, 1992	A child takes a close-up look at various aspects of nature, including an acorn, the golden eye of a frog, and an empty hornet's nest.	4–8
1	<i>Look What I Did with a Leaf</i>	Sohi, Morteza E	0802774407	New York: Scholastic, 1993	This book tells about the many shapes of leaves and provides ideas on how to make animals out of different leaves.	4–8
1	<i>Sarah's Questions</i>	Ziefert, Harriett	0688056148	New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1986	A little girl asks many questions about the world while taking a walk with her mother.	3–6

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2	<i>The Way to Wyatt's House</i>	Carlstrom, Nancy White	0802787401	New York: Walker & Company, 2000	Two children discover all kinds of wonderful sights and sounds as they walk to their friend's house.	2-5
2	<i>Voice of the Wood</i>	Clement, Claude	0140545948	New York: Puffin Books, 1993	In this enchanting Venetian folktale, an old musical instrument-maker captures the harmony of nature when he creates a cello that contains the power of the tree it came from and the sweetness of the birds that used to sing in the tree's branches.	4-8
2	<i>The Heart of the Wood</i>	Davol, Marquerite	0671747789	New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1992	. A cumulative, rhyming tale that describes the process by which a living tree is transformed into a musical instrument.	4-8
2	<i>Rain Song</i>	Evans, Lezlie	0395850770	Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1995	A playful rhyming poem and energetic illustrations show two girls relishing the delights of a rainstorm. From the first "distant rumblings" to the "lightning's flashing / big boom bashing," the kids wallow in the physical sounds and movements, whether they're cozy indoors or "puddle kicking / raindrop licking" in their galoshes after the rain.	3-7
2	<i>My Night Forest</i>	Owen, Roy	0027690059	New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994	This story takes children on a nighttime journey deep into the forest and into the lives of five types of animals: bears, deer, mice, owls, and wolves. The story explores what these night creatures hear, see, smell, taste, and touch in the middle of the night.	1-7
2	<i>Quiet Please</i>	Merriam, Eva	0671798162	New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995	Shhh! If you are very quiet, there are so many things you can hear around you!	5-8
2	<i>The Listening Walk</i>	Showers, Paul	0064433226	New York: HarperCollins, 1999	A young girl takes a quiet walk with her father and identifies the different sounds they hear.	3-6

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2	<i>The Other Way to Listen</i>	Taylor, Byrd	0689810539	Aladdin, 1997	From the point of view of a young child, the book describes how to listen to the world around us.	4–8
2	<i>Owl Moon</i>	Yolen, Jane	0399214577	New York: Penguin Group (USA), 1987	A girl and her father go owling on a moonlit winter night near the farm where they live. Learn about what they see and hear hidden in ink-blue shadows.	3–8
3	<i>Tickly Prickly</i>	Becker, Bonny	0694012394	New York: HarperFestival, 1999	A child encounters a variety of animals and describes how they feel.	3–7
3	<i>My Fingers Are for Touching</i>	Belk-Moncure, Jane	1567662846	Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 1998	This book illustrates the many different kinds of textures that fingers can touch and feel, as well as some other things they can do (like tickle and hug).	4–8
3	<i>Trees, Leaves, and Bark</i>	Burns, Diane L.	1559716282	Minneapolis: T&N Children's Publishing, 1995	An excellent guide to 16 different trees found in different regions of the United States. The book makes a walk through the woods fun for families by providing information and illustrations about the leaves, bark, seeds, and life span of each tree.	6–10
3	<i>The Black Book of Colors</i>	Cottin, Menena, and Rosana Faria	0888998732	Toronto, ON: Groundwood Books, 2008	Colors are described by blind children, as they use other senses to tell how the colors smell, sound, taste, or feel. This book features raised images printed with black ink on black paper and the text is printed in both Braille and English words.	4–8
3	<i>Nuts to You!</i>	Ehlert, Lois	152050647	Orlando, FL: Voyager Books, 2004	Learn about the misadventures of a rascally city squirrel who sneaks inside an apartment window. Labels on each page identify plants, birds, and insects, and a glossary offers additional facts.	3–7
3	<i>Is It Rough? Is It Smooth? Is It Shiny?</i>	Hoban, Tana	0688038239	New York: Greenwillow Books, 1984	Colorful photographs of animals and objects introduce children to many different textures.	2–5

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3	<i>Don't Touch</i>	Kline, Suzy	0140508619	New York: Puffin Books, 1988	Although he's only trying to help, a boy meets nothing but frustrations and the words "Don't touch!" until he finds something he can touch and play with: modeling clay.	2-6
4	<i>Arthur's Nose</i>	Brown, Marc Tolon	0316118842	Boston: Little, Brown, 2001	First-grader Arthur the aardvark decides that he doesn't like his nose. He goes to the doctor to change it, but ultimately decides, to the relief of his friends and family, "I'm just not me without my nose!"	4-8
4	<i>Pie in the Sky</i>	Ehlert, Lois	0152165843	Orlando, FL: Harcourt Children's Books, 2004	A father and child watch the cherry tree in their backyard, waiting until they have ripe cherries to bake in a pie. The book includes a recipe for cherry pie.	3-7
4	<i>The Apple Pie Tree</i>	Hall, Zoe	0590623826	New York: Scholastic, 1996	Two little girls watch their apple tree from early spring to fall. They also watch a family of robins as the tree flowers and forms apples.	4-8
4	<i>Tall and Tasty: Fruit Trees</i>	Hughes, Meredith Sayles	0822528371	Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2000	Each chapter examines the discovery and migration of plants, as well as their roles in cooking, technology, and world cultures. Through a close-up look at planting, pollination, harvesting, and processing, readers will also learn how fruit crops make their way from field to table.	4-8
4	<i>How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World</i>	Priceman, Marjorie	0679880836	New York: Dragonfly Books, 1996	From the jungles of Sri Lanka to the apple orchards of Vermont, the energetic little baker searches far and wide to find the finest ingredients for her apple pie. Use a globe or map to add a social studies element to the story.	4-8
4	<i>Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise</i>	Rickert, Janet Elizabeth	189062716X	Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 1999	After Russ, a five-year-old with Down syndrome, picks a basket of apples and helps his mother and grandmother bake a pie, his grandfather invites him into the backyard for a surprise.	4-9
5	<i>Leaf Man</i>	Ehlert, Lois	0152053042	Boston: Harcourt Children's Books, 2005	With a body made of fallen leaves and acorns for eyes, Leaf Man takes off from a backyard and flutters away on the breeze, meandering past animals, over fields of fall vegetables, above waterways, and across prairie meadows.	4-8

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5	<i>Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf</i>	Ehlert, Lois	0152661972	Boston: Harcourt Children's Books, 1991	A child describes the growth of a maple tree from seed to sapling. Collage illustrations enhance the story with wonderful details. The last several pages contain information on planting and caring for maple trees.	4-8
5	<i>Autumblings</i>	Florian, Douglas	0060092785	New York: Greenwillow Books, 2003	Using simple rhyme schemes; invented words, such as "autumnatically," "owlphabet," and "fallicopters" (maple seeds); and descriptive spellings, Florian demonstrates that reading and writing can be lots of fun.	4-8
5	<i>Fresh Fall Leaves</i>	Franco, Betsy	0590962965	New York: Scholastic, 1994	This picture book is about fallen leaves and the many things that one can do with them.	3-7
5	<i>Fall Leaves Fall</i>	Hall, Zoe	0439321727	New York: Scholastic, 2000	A young boy shares why he and his brother love the season of autumn.	4-8
5	<i>Growing Apples and Pumpkins</i>	Hutchings, Amy, and Richard Hutchings	0439223520	New York: Scholastic, 2001	It's fall! Ripe red apples and bright orange pumpkins are ready for picking! Children can tag along with farmer Scott Applegate and his family and see how they prepare for the harvest.	4-6
5	<i>Fall Changes</i>	Senisi, Ellen B.	0439240948	New York: Scholastic, 2001	Colorful photographs of children and short descriptive sentences tell a story of the many changes that take place in nature each autumn.	4-8
5	<i>Chipmunk at Hollow Tree Lane</i>	Sherrow, Victoria	1568990286	New York: Scholastic, 1994	In this tale about preparing for winter, readers follow a chipmunk on his journey to collect acorns and berries as the autumn days grow shorter and colder.	4-8
6	<i>Animals in Winter</i>	Bancroft, Henrietta, and Richard G. Van Gelder	0613029542	St. Louis, MO: San Val, 1999	This book explains ways that animals have of coping with winter and inclement weather.	2-6

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6	<i>Where Would in an Evergreen Tree?</i>	Blomgren, Jennifer	1570614148	Seattle, WA: Sasquatch Books, 2004	This book presents pictures and information about the many animals plants that find their homes in a northern coniferous forest.	4–8
6	<i>Night Tree</i>	Bunting, Eve	078575315X	St. Louis, MO: San Val, 1999	On a cold Christmas Eve, a family drives out to Luke’s Forest, where they greet their favorite tree like an old friend and decorate it with edible ornaments for the animals of the woods.	2–5
6	<i>Winter Eyes</i>	Florian, Douglas	0688164587	New York: Greenwillow Books, 1999	Poet Douglas Florian melts everyone’s doubts about Mother Nature’s chilly grip with 28 winter-inspired poems accompanied by crisp watercolor illustrations. Ages 5 and up.	5 and up
6	<i>Winter Trees</i>	Gerber, Carole	1580891691	Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2008	A boy and his dog walk through a winter woods and note the different tree shapes.	2–5
6	<i>Mousekin’s Frosty Friend</i>	Miller, Edna	0671704451	New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990	In the middle of winter, it isn’t easy for a white-footed mouse to find food, especially while trying to dodge predators that are just as hungry. Find out what a careful mouse does when he comes across a creature he’s never seen before—and how this creature helps the mouse avoid danger.	4–8
6	<i>Stranger in the Woods: A Photographic Fantasy</i>	Sams, Carl R., and Jean Stoick	0967174805	Milford, MI: C. R. Sams II Photography, 2000	Who is this stranger? Why did he arrive after a winter storm and what surprises does he bring? A delightful book of animal reactions to a snowman who suddenly appeared in the woods after a winter storm.	4–8
6	<i>Owl Moon</i>	Yolen, Jane	0399214577	New York: Penguin Group (USA), 1987	A girl and her father go owling on a moonlit winter night near the farm where they live. Learn about what they see and hear hidden in ink-blue shadows.	3–8
7	<i>A Tree for All Seasons</i>	Bernard, Robin	0792266749	Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2001	This picture book records the growth of a maple tree over a period of time to illustrate what trees do and how the seasons change.	4–8

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7	<i>Handsprings: Poems and Paintings</i>	Florian, Douglas	0060092807	New York: Greenwillow Books, 2006	This collection of 29 poems about spring are illustrated with watercolors and extol the many virtues of springtime.	5–8
7	<i>It's Spring!</i>	Glaser, Linda	0761313451	Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2002	Simple text and bold paper sculpture convey the animal life, plant life, weather, and clothing, as well as the colors and feelings, associated with the spring season.	4–8
7	<i>That's What Happens When It's Spring!</i>	Good, Elaine	1561481459	Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 1987	A rural child discovers the sights, sounds, colors, and special feeling of spring. The book features a repeating line on each page: That's what happens when it's spring!	3–6
7	<i>My Mother Talks to Trees</i>	Gove, Doris	1561453366	Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 1999	A girl joins her mother on a spring walk, stopping to admire tree leaves, flowers, needles, and seeds, and recognizes them as a source of beauty.	4–9
7	<i>Naomi Knows It's Springtime</i>	Kroll, Virginia	1563970066	Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1993	A young girl senses it is spring without being able to see it.	4–8
7	<i>Spring Song</i>	Seuling, Barbara	0152023178	San Diego, CA: Gulliver Books, 2001	The author poses seven questions, each on a double-page spread, asking readers to predict how black bears, bullfrogs, eagles, moles, rabbits, skunks, and people will react to seasonal changes.	2–5
8	<i>Summersaults</i>	Florian, Douglas	0060292679	New York: Greenwillow Books, 2002	This book features 28 poems that celebrate all things summery. The poems describe many of summer's sensations, including cartwheels, fireflies, fly balls, green frogs, hazy days, sidewalk scooters, and swimming holes.	5–7
8	<i>Underneath My Favorite Tree</i>	Green, M. L.	1604748583	Frederick, MD: PublishAmerica, 2008	Oh, what wonderful things you'll see underneath your special tree! Read along with this playful poem as Nadiya imagines seeing all of her favorite things underneath her beloved tree.	4–8

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8	<i>My Favorite Tree: Terrific Trees of North America</i>	Iverson, Diane	1883220939	Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 1999	From aspen to yew, the native trees of North America have given us food, shelter, and heritage. This book also features interesting facts about 27 major trees and their relatives, such as their vital statistics, dependent wildlife, record-holding trees of the species, and the role the trees played in the lives of Native Americans and	4-8
8	<i>The Wish Trees</i>	Jones, Andrea Koehle	1434392058	Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2008	Rooted in the idea that every child can help make the world a better place, kids discover the wonder of trees and enjoy searching for different animals and animal signs.	4-8
8	<i>Sky Tree: Seeing Science through Art</i>	Locker, Thomas	0064437507	New York: HarperCollins, 1995	A tree stands on a hill by a river. As the sky changes, so does the tree; its branches are filled with birds, clouds, mist, stars, snow, and the golden spring sun. One tree can mean many things to different people.	3-7
8	<i>Hello, Tree!</i>	Ryder, Joanne	0525673105	New York: Lodestar Books, 1991	A tree can be a special friend, offering cool shade, branches to climb, and a solid point of reference in a changing world. This book's sun-dappled paintings create a quiet yet effective celebration of nature. Join children of all races as they play in and around a tree.	4-8
8	<i>Meeting Trees</i>	Sanders, Scott Russell	0792241401	Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1997	During a long walk through the forest with his father, a young boy discovers the wonders of nature as he learns about different kinds of trees and their special characteristics. This guide includes detailed descriptions to help young readers identify various tree species.	4-8
8	<i>Everybody Needs a Rock</i>	Taylor, Byrd	0689710518	Aladdin, 1985	This delightful story is told by a child who describes the ten rules for finding your own personal rock	4-8
8	<i>A Quiet Place</i>	Wood, Douglas	0689876092	New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002	In prose containing many similes and metaphors, a boy feels the need for a calm, noise-free spot. After he visits the beach, a cave, the desert, a lilac bush, the woods, and more, see what he finally decides.	4-8
9	<i>A Tree Is a Plant</i>	Bulla, Clyde Robert	0064451968	New York: HarperCollins, 2001	This Let's-Read-and-Find-Out book follows the growth of an apple tree from seed to maturity. It explains tree parts and functions in simple terms.	4-7

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9	<i>From Acorns to Oak Trees</i>	Cush, Charles	1934478067	St. Cloud, MN: Sunray Publishing, 2007	A young girl compares herself with an acorn. As an acorn can grow into a mighty oak tree, the girl daydreams about all the different things she can grow up to be; perhaps an astronaut, a doctor, a teacher... or even president of the United States!	4-8
9	<i>A Tree Is Growing</i>	Dorros, Arthur	0590453009	New York: Scholastic, 1997	Through text, captions, labels, and diagrams, this book examines many aspects of tree growth cycles, including the annual rings, the production of flowers and seeds, the autumnal color change, and animal habitats.	4-8
9	<i>Tell Me, Tree: All about Trees for Kids</i>	Gibbons, Gail	0316309036	Boston: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2002	This large-format guide discusses the parts of a tree and their functions, the growth of trees, and the different types of trees.	4-8
9	<i>I Am a Leaf</i>	Marzolla, Jean	0590641204	New York: Scholastic, 1998	Simple text and colorful illustrations describe the function of leaves.	3-6
9	<i>Are Trees Alive?</i>	Miller, Debbie S	0802788017	New York: Walker, 2002	An introduction to trees that compares parts of a tree with parts of the human body. The story features people and trees from all over the world.	4-8
10	<i>Forest Explorer: A Life-Size Field Guide</i>	Bishop, Nic.	0439174805	New York: Scholastic, 2004	This book is a photo collage that explores and depicts many of the plants and animals that live in a forest.	4-8
10	<i>One Small Place in a Tree</i>	Brenner, Barbara	068817180X	New York: HarperCollins, 2004	A child watches one tiny scratch in a tree develop into a home for a variety of woodland animals over many years, even after the tree has fallen.	4-8
10	<i>Good-Night, Owl!</i>	Hutchins, Pat	0689713711	New York: Macmillan, 1972	This humorous story looks at an owl's daytime attempt to sleep in a tree shared with a variety of noisy wildlife.	3-8

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10	<i>Counting on the Woods</i>	Lyon, George Ella	0789424800	New York: DK Children, 1998	A short poem illustrated with color photographs, this counting book reminds children of the importance of trees.	4–8
10	<i>A Log's Life</i>	Pfeffer, Wendy	1416934839	New York: Aladdin, 2007	This book provides an attractive introduction to the life, death, and decay of an oak tree. It inspires readers to take a close look at the trees—and logs—in their own backyards.	4–7
10	<i>In a Tree</i>	Schwartz, David M.	0836822455	Milwaukee, WI: Gareth Stevens Publications, 1999	Readers discover the many inhabitants of a tree in this colorful mystery book. Each organism's identity is revealed through up-close observations of one feature (What could it be?) and then a large-scale photograph of the entire organism.	4–8
10	<i>A Tree for Me</i>	Van Laan, Nancy	0679893849	New York: Knopf, 2000	In this book, a child climbs five different trees, looking for a place to hide. Each tree reveals an increasing number of animals already in residence, until finally the perfect tree is found.	3–7
10	<i>Forest Bright, Forest Night</i>	Ward, Jennifer	1584690674	Nevada, CA: Dawn Publications, 2005	When read in one direction, this book shows the forest during the day. When closed, turned over, and read in the other direction, it depicts the same places in the forest at night.	4–8
11	<i>Franklin Plants a Tree</i>	Bourgeois, Paulette	1550748785	New York: Scholastic, 2001	Franklin and his friends plant saplings on Earth Day.	4–8
11	<i>The Tree Farmer</i>	Leavell, Chuck, and Nicholas Cravotta	1893622169	Lorton, VA: VSP Books, 2005	A grandfather who owns a tree farm takes his grandson on a magical journey through the forest, where trees become musical instruments, books, a baby's crib, and more. The story highlights the vital role that trees play in our lives.	4–8
11	<i>Sky Tree: Seeing Science through Art</i>	Locker, Thomas	0064437507	New York: HarperCollins, 2001	This fascinating series of paintings shows the same tree in 13 different situations (for example, winter, storm, night, and clouds).	4–8

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11	<i>The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folktale</i>	Lowery, Linda, and Richard Keep	1580138519	Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group, 2009	This folktale presents the story of a Mayan king's gift to his community: a chocolate tree! Find out if the Mayans get to keep their chocolate tree or if the delicious treat is reserved only for the gods.	4-10
11	<i>Pablo's Tree</i>	Mora, Pat	0027674010	New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994	Each year on his birthday, a young Mexican-American boy looks forward to seeing how his grandfather has decorated the tree he planted on the day the boy was adopted.	4-8
11	<i>The Giving Tree</i>	Silverstein, Shel	0060256656	New York: HarperCollins, 1964	This book shares a tale about a relationship between a young boy and a tree in the forest. The tree always provides the boy with what he wants, from apples to shade to stump. Making the boy happy makes the tree happy, but with time it becomes more challenging for the generous tree to meet the boy's needs.	4-8
11	<i>An Elm Tree and Three Sisters</i>	Sommerdorf, Norman	0670893080	New York: Viking, 2001	Three sisters plant an elm tree, and this story explains how both the tree and the girls grow up together.	4-8
11	<i>The Singing Fir Tree</i>	Stone, Marti	0399222073	New York: Putnam, 1992	This Swiss folktale is about a woodcarver and his quest to find the perfect wood for his masterpiece. When he wants to cut down the town's beloved singing fir tree, he learns that trees mean different things to different people.	4-8
11	<i>A Tree Is Nice</i>	Udry, Janice May	0064431479	New York: Harper & Row, 1956	With a simple message, this book describes the importance of trees to people and wildlife.	3-7

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