



Young Buds Programs 2012

Winter Adaptations | January - February

How do plants and animals survive chilly Virginia winters without warm coats and jackets? After a fireside story and interactive song, students bundle up and head out to explore characteristics of plants and animals in the winter garden. Children collect natural materials such as nuts, leaves and twigs to create a cozy animal home to take back to the classroom.

Sprouts in Spring | March - April

As buds emerge from bare branches and colorful flowers burst from the beds, students discover the sights and smells of the early spring garden. Since spring showers bring summer flowers, we will create the sounds of a rainstorm and water the plants with a gentle 'rain'. Participants will transform a plain twig into a colorful spring flower bud branch to take home.

Bees and Blooms | May

Using a 'bee's eye view', children buzz from flower to flower to explore pollination and discover the important role bees play in the development of fruits and seeds. Participants learn the "bee dance," taste local honey, and use beeswax and petals to make a fragrant sun catcher for the classroom.

Caterpillar to Butterfly June - October

Children flutter and fly through the Garden searching for examples of the butterfly life cycle! Students peer under leaves looking for eggs, examine foliage for caterpillars and observe colorful butterflies pollinating the flowers. After exploring, students squish, squeeze and roll recycled paper pulp and seeds into a plantable seed ball to start their own butterfly garden at home.

Tree Traffic | November - December

Animal tracks, empty nut shells, and lost birds feathers are among the clues to winter tree travelers. After making binoculars, children search the Garden for signs of the animals visiting and living among the trees. Children engage their senses as we listen for sounds, investigate smells, and collect natural materials to take back to the classroom for ongoing discovery.