

# At Home with Nature

Nature doesn't just happen in a park; it can happen right at home!



A resource for **PRESCHOOL** and **EARLY ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN**  
so they may feel right **AT HOME WITH NATURE.**

## WHOO'S THAT?

Videos, activities, stories and songs  
celebrating our wonderful nighttime  
flyers - OWLS.

### Let's Get Started

Enjoy this video and see some of the owl  
ambassadors cared for by Piedmont Wildlife  
Center.

<https://youtu.be/e9gV2k4387I>

### Literacy Connection

Listen to the story Owl Moon written by Jane  
Yolen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ehli3QoxDM>

### Music and Movement

Sing along and pretend to be a hungry owl!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB-FIGzRsVo>



### Math Connection

Younger children can sing and count as  
owls land on a branch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0szXPz5bv2g>

Older children can use owl "talons" to gather and  
count food.

*Directions are below.*

### Creative Expression

Create an owl puppet using a paper lunch  
sack.

*Directions are below.*

### Let's Explore Outdoors

Take the learning outdoors with memorable  
family activities.

*Details are below.*



# Math Connection



*Owls are predators, animals that hunt and eat other animals. Their sharp talons are well designed for catching prey.*

## Bird Feet Buffet!

**Gather a pair of kitchen tongs. These will represent an owl's talons. Gather a variety of food items like marshmallows, grapes and large cereal pieces.**

**Set out the containers of food on a table.**

**Invite your child(ren) to use the tongs to gather food from the containers. Have your child(ren) gather food for 2 minutes.**



**Have your child(ren) count the number of pieces of each food type and record the results. Compare and graph the quantity of each food type collected.**

*Owls often hunt mice, shrews, snakes and other birds. Owls use sharp talons on their feet to grab and hold their prey. Owls often swallow their prey whole... bones, fur and all! They digest the soft parts and then, hours later, they cough up the rest in the form of a pellet.*

# Music and Movement



*Most owls are excellent nighttime hunters. Using their keen vision and hearing, they hunt for food like mice and rats and snakes.*

## Late Last Night

Sung to the tune of "Mrs. O'Leary"

**Late last night,**

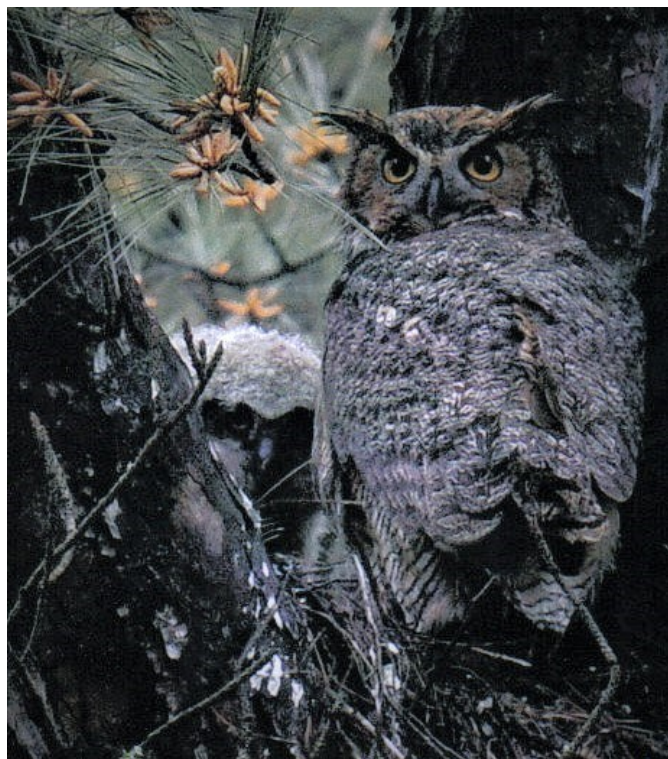
**when we were all in bed,** (Pretend to be sleeping.)

**wise old owl popped up his head.**  
(Pop up your head.)

**He looked to the left.** (Move your head slowly to the left.)

**He looked to the right.** (Move your head slowly to the right.)

**He was hunting and searching all night.** (Bend your fingers like an owl's talons.)



# Creative Expression



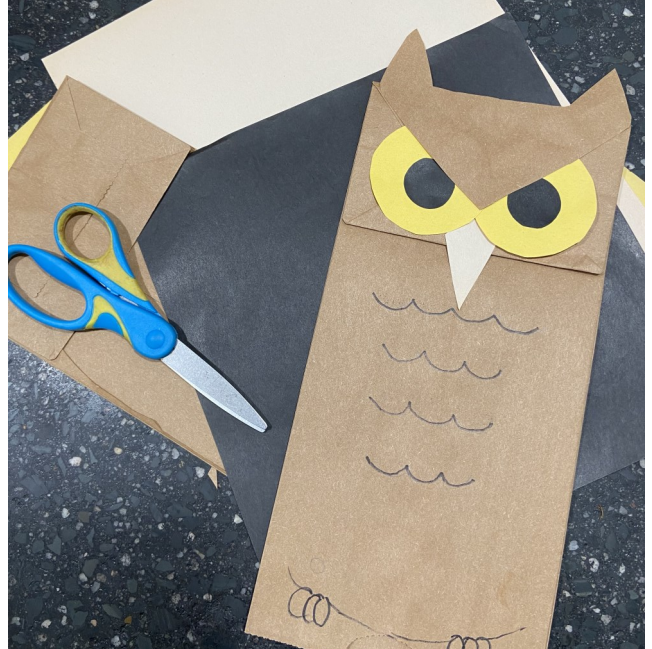
## Create an Owl Puppet

### Materials Needed:

2 Brown Paper Lunch Sacks  
Colored Paper  
Scissors  
Glue  
Markers

### Directions:

- Cut a pair of eyes from yellow paper. Cut the eye pupils from black paper. Cut a beak from tan paper.
- Cut a brow with ear tufts from one paper lunch sack.
- Glue the eyes, beak and brow to the second lunch sack using the photo above as reference.
- Use markers to draw feather and talons.



# Let's Explore Outdoors



## Play Hide and Squeak

**This is a fun family game. One family member is chosen to be the “owl” while other family members become “mice.” The owl” hides his or her eyes and counts to twenty while the “mice” hide. Once the “owl” reaches twenty, the “owl” opens his or her eyes and says, “Where are the mice?” Each “mouse” must answer by making a squeaking sound. Every time the “owl” asks, “Where are the mice?” the “mice” must squeak. The “owl” listens and seeks the hidden “mice.”**



## Listen Like Owls

**Find a comfortable outdoor spot to sit. Close your eyes. Sit quietly for a few minutes. Open your eyes and name the different sounds you heard.**

*Owls have excellent hearing. Although some owls have “ear tufts” that may look like ears on top of their heads, these are actually feathers. An owl’s ears are on the sides of its head.*

# Let's Explore Outdoors



## Owl Prowl

Owls are nocturnal, active at night. Take a nighttime walk. Notice how things look different at night versus day. Can you see the colors that you can see in the daytime? Listen for the sounds of owls that may be active at night in your neighborhood. Learn to identify owls by their calls.



*Great Horned Owl* - 5 hooter: "Who's awake? Me, too."

*Barred Owl* - 8 hooter: "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you 'all?'"

*Barn Owl* - "K-r-r-r-r-ick" or a shrieking sound.

*Screech Owl* - A whinnying sound.



## A Tree is Home for Me

Trees are homes for many owls. Visit a tree near your home. Look closely at the tree's bark and leaves. Imagine how an owl could easily hide in the tree's branches. Sit quietly beneath the tree and listen for animals that may live in it. Imagine the sound of an owl high in its branches. Draw a picture of your tree. Draw an owl living in its branches.