

At Home with Nature



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

These activities have been developed to encourage the innate curiosity and wonder of **PRE-SCHOOLERS** and **EARLY ELEMENTARY-AGE CHILDREN** so they may feel right **AT HOME WITH NATURE!**

A Shell For A Home

Videos, activities, songs and more all celebrating **TURTLES** and **SNAILS** and their interesting “mobile homes!”

Let's Get Started

Enjoy this video and discover why turtles and snails are amazing creatures! See some of our **turtles** and **snails** that are used for Raleigh Parks programming.

https://youtu.be/_JL62nqdQvo



Literacy Connection

Enjoy the story of **Tiny Snail** written and illustrated by Tammy Carter Bronson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUj8No-GPa0>

Math Connection

Preschoolers watch and **count** turtles: <https://youtu.be/41fCE-B4zX4>

Older children can wonder in the **geometry** of turtle shells. **Directions** are below.

Music and Movement

Sing along and move like turtles and snails.

<https://youtu.be/O8TAJ5i5sBs>

Song lyrics can be found below.

Creative Expression

Make a **Turtle Puppet**. **Directions** are below.

Let's Explore Outdoors

Take the learning outdoors with fun family activities. **Details** are below.

Math Connection



For Preschool Children:

Cut apart an egg carton to create small turtle shells. Children can paint and decorate these if they would like. Add a head, tail and legs to create turtles. Write numbers on the tops of the shells.

Children may count small objects like buttons, dried beans or candies and place them under the appropriate turtle shells.

For Early Elementary-Age Children:

The hexagon is one of nature's geometric wonders. We see six-sided hexagons within bee hives, on the scales of snakes, and on the shells of turtles.

Use craft sticks to create a six-sided hexagon. Add additional craft sticks to expand your hexagon into a series of them. That's called a tessellation – a pattern of interlocking shapes.

Music and Movement



I'm a Little Turtle

Sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot"

I'm a little turtle,
I crawl so slow, (move arms like crawling)
And carry my house (place hands in a dome over your head)
Wherever I go.

If I should get tired (yawn)
I pull in my head, (point to head)
My arms and my legs, (wiggle hands and then point to legs)
And I go to bed! (rest head on hands)

I'm a little turtle,
I crawl so slow, (move arms like crawling)
And carry my house (place hands in a dome over your head)
Wherever I go.

I'm a Little Garden Snail

Sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot"

I'm a little garden snail,
I move so slow, (wiggle)
And carry my house (place hands in a dome over your head)
Wherever I go.

If I should get tired (yawn)
I pull in my head, (point to head)
My tummy and my foot, (point to stomach and one foot)
And I go to bed! (rest head on hands)

I'm a little garden snail,
I move so slow, (wiggle)
And carry my house (place hands in a dome over your head)
Wherever I go.

Creative Expression



Make A Turtle Puppet

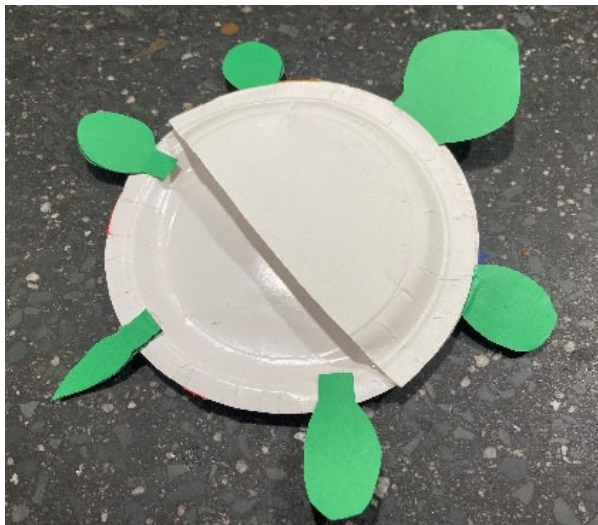
Materials Needed:

2 paper plates

Paper to create a turtle head, feet and tail

Scissors and glue/tape

Materials to decorate the turtle's top shell



Directions:

Create a turtle head, feet and tail using colored paper.

Glue these pieces to the underside of one paper plate.

Cut the second paper plate in half and glue to the puppet as shown in the photo on the left.

Decorate the top shell either using crayons and markers or by gluing on small pieces of colored paper or other materials.

Let's Explore Outdoors



A View from Down Low!

In your backyard or natural area near your home, invite your child(ren) to lie down on their back and look up!

Ask your child(ren) questions like:

What do you see above you?

Is any sunlight hitting you?

Would a turtle enjoy sunlight warming him?

A turtle's favorite thing to do during the daytime is "bask" or soak up the sun's warmth.

How about a garden snail?

Garden snails hide from the sun. Their moist bodies prefer cool damp places.

Have your child(ren) turn over on their stomach.

Ask your child(ren) questions like:

What is covering the ground?

Who might be living just beneath the grass, pine straw, gravel, sand, etc.?

Could a garden snail live nearby?

Garden snails need cool, loose soil with grasses nearby for food.

Could a box turtle find what it needs to live nearby?

Eastern Box Turtles live in wooded areas. They eat plants and bugs and worms.

Let's Explore Outdoors



Unearthing a Snail

Find a shady area with loose soil and invite your child(ren) to dig and search for a garden snail.

If one is found, provide time for your child(ren) to look closely at its shell. Garden snails are quite bashful and hide in their shell when disturbed. If you place the snail in a container with some grass and leaves, the snail may come out of its shell so your child(ren) can watch it move. After observing, return the snail to its habitat.

Hiding in Plain Sight!

Play a game of hide and seek with toy animals. Choose one player to be “it.” This person closes his or her eyes. Other players place toy animals “in plain sight” by finding places that match the animals’ coloring. When finished, invite the person who is “it” to find the animals. Which animals were the easiest to find? Which were the most difficult? Why?

Snails and turtles are creatures that can hide in plain sight! Colors and markings that allow animals to blend in with their habitats help to keep them safe from hungry predators.