



Merry Lea

*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Exploring Nature PreK

Program Description

Students explore seasons as spring wakes up around them! Get out on the trails and investigate adaptations, the diversity of life and ecosystem interactions. Dip for pond creatures, play concept-reinforcing games and experience spring in Indiana.

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Discover there is great diversity among plants and animals
- Learn about sequencing through life cycles and the seasons
- Explore what plants and animals are doing in the spring

Program Outline

1. Hike

Students head out on our trails to get a close-up view of what plants and animals are doing this time of year. They participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games and other hands-on activities.

2. Vernal Pond Exploration

While on the hike, students stop at one of our vernal ponds to search for macroinvertebrates and amphibians living in the water.

3. The afternoon is filled with a variety of age-appropriate activities. Options include:

- Songs
- Games
- Stories
- An introduction to Northern watersnakes

Vocabulary

- Season
- Spring
- Fall
- Winter
- Summer
- Life Cycle
- Senses

Quick Facts

Season	Spring: April - May Summer: June
Grades	PreK
Program Length	1.5 hours
Maximum # of Students	80 Students

Early Learning Foundations

SC2.2 Recognize seasonal and weather related changes. Communicate awareness of seasonal changes.

SC3.1 Demonstrate awareness of life. Compare attributes of living organisms. Ask questions and conduct investigations to understand life science.

SC5.1 Demonstrate scientific curiosity. Observe with a focus on details. Discuss ways that people can affect the environment in positive and negative ways.