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Environmental Learning Center  
of Goshen College

# Winter Nature

## K - 2nd

### Program Description

Enjoy the wonders of winter! Students explore how people, plants and animals cope with winter by using their senses in the wintery woods and meadows. Outdoors they search for signs of life and survival strategies used by native plants and animals. Indoors they warm up while engaging in fun and educational winter-themed activities.

### Program Objectives

Students will:

- Learn how plants and animals use different strategies to survive the winter
- Discover there is great diversity among plants and animals
- Explore what it means to be “non-living” and “living”

### Program Outline

1. Students begin the day with several indoor activities:
  - Puppet Show: This show illustrates different survival strategies used by various animals
  - Practice tracking: Students have the opportunity to walk like various animals.
  - Making plaster tracks: Students make individual tracks of common Indiana winter animals and take them home.
2. 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.
3. The afternoon is filled with a variety of age-appropriate activities. Options include:
  - Games
  - Stories with hot chocolate (school must provide hot chocolate supplies)
  - An introduction to Northern watersnakes

### Vocabulary

- Winter
- Spring
- Migrate
- Track
- Fall
- Summer
- Hibernate

### Quick Facts

Season	Winter: January
Grades	K - 2nd
Program Length	4 hours
Maximum # of Students	40 Students

### Standards Correlations

**K.PS.1** Plan and conduct an investigation using all senses to describe and classify different kinds of objects by their composition and physical properties.

**1.LS.3** Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

**2.LS.1** Determine patterns and behavior of parents and offspring, which help offspring to survive.

**2.LS.3** Classify living organisms according to variations in specific physical features and describe how those features may provide an advantage for survival in different ecosystems.

*See Standards Correlations for Winter Nature for more academic connections.*