



Merry Lea

*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Winter Nature

PreK

Program Description

Enjoy the wonders of winter! Students explore how people, plants and animals cope with winter by using their senses in the wintry 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:

- Discover there is great diversity among plants and animals
- Learn how plants and animals use different strategies to survive the winter
- Look for clues that animals and plants are alive

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 will have the opportunity to walk like various animals.
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)
 - Songs
 - An introduction to Northern watersnakes

Vocabulary

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

Quick Facts

Season	Winter: January
Grades	PreK
Program Length	1.5 hours
Maximum # of Students	40 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.