

Field Trips-Day Trips & Nature Walks

Activities to use During Teaching Parents and Teachers of Young Children

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Parents, teachers and others who work with children of all ages can expand their repertoire of interactions with children by thinking about places located right in the community or the backyard that can be used educationally and to connect with one another.

Field Trips-Day Trips & Nature Walks

Preschoolers, toddlers and young children are always learning. When they observe, touch, see and smell-they are learning. It is a never-ending part of their young lives. This 'learning' fact is a big reason why it is important for children to experience new things and new environments.

As parents and teachers there are a variety of places or activities that we can provide our kids for our kids to learn from. Outdoor field trips or nature walks create wonderful outdoor activities for children and preschoolers to learn new things. Field trips and nature walks etc. do not have to be a hassle but can be simple places where children can observe and learn new things.

Possible Field Trip places where you can take your children or students:

Police station: Children can learn about the police, what their function is in the community as well as details about the work they do to enforce the law.

Fire Station: Preschoolers and toddlers can learn about fire fighters, their job details. They can learn about the fire trucks, how they help pump water, how fire fighters keep us all safe, and learn about fire safety.

SPCA or Humane Society: Children learn about the animals in the animal shelters. They learn how important it is to respect and care for animals properly. They can also learn about duties in the animal shelter etc. Animal caretakers may be able to walk a few dogs or to show the children.

Seniors Home or Retirement Home: Preschoolers and young children learn to respect the elderly. They can talk and socialize with the residents and put a smile on many of the faces of those who are confined to these senior's homes.

Library: Children can learn about all the books. They learn why libraries are important, what librarians do, and maybe even have a few stories read to them from the children's book section.

Greenhouse: Preschoolers can learn about what grows and can be grown in greenhouses. How greenhouses work all year long, how to care for plants, flowers, and trees. They also can learn about different colors and smells.

Zoo: Preschoolers & children learn what zoo's do, what keepers are, their job duties and how they care for the animals. Children may also learn about different animals that are native to their country and those from other countries. They may also learn about different classes of animals like birds, reptiles, mammals etc.

Garden Park: Children may learn about landscaping, gardening, different types of plants, flowers and shrubs. They may also learn about different colors and caring for the environment etc.

Splash Park (Water Park for kids): Great for a hot day where kids can play and have fun cooling off. Remember to ALWAYS use appropriate sun block and SUPERVISE children when in the hot sun and around water.

Walk in the Forest (nature walk): Children learn to observe nature. What they hear, what they see, smell etc. They can collect leaves, pine cones, acorns, chest nuts, pine needles and other things which can be examined using magnifying glasses in the classrooms as a science activity or to create an art project. (*Always stay on the trail unless you are familiar with different poisonous plants like poison ivy and other things that could make things unpleasant or unsafe for you and the children.)

Conservation Area: Children can learn about taking care of lakes, rivers, swamps, marshes. They also learn different tree species, different types of animals that live in the forests. They may learn about day and night animals.

Train Station: Preschoolers love trains! They can learn about trains, they can watch them come in to the station. They may even be lucky enough to hear a whistle, talk to a train operator, or have a small tour on a train.

Airport: Children and preschoolers can see all the small airplanes (maybe bigger ones) depending what size airport. They can learn about air traffic, how planes fly and how they communicate. They may get to talk with a pilot or other workers and learn about their job duties.

Grocery Store: Children can learn about different foods. They can learn about food groups, how food is shipped to stores and learn about healthy food choices.

Pet store: Children and preschoolers love pets. A local pet store may welcome a small tour and show off some of their birds, cats and puppies. They can learn about caring for animals and feeding them etc.

The list of places where field trips and preschool learning can take place is endless. Use your imagination to think outside the 'box'.

Outdoor Activities & Seasonal Activities For Kids:

Different seasons & weather present different field trip opportunities and outdoor activities for children. For example, wintertime may allow for a different type of nature walk, using food coloring in the snow or the meaning of temperature. Springtime and autumn may create different focus on outdoor activities including growing things and the colors that turn. Summer time may allow more opportunities water play and gardening.

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