



BCDI
Black Child
Development Institute
ATLANTA

WINGS, WIGGLES, AND WONDERS

A MULTICULTURAL SPRING
WILDLIFE EXPLORATION

APRIL 2025

AGES 0-5



ACTIVITY GUIDE

FOR PARENTS & EARLY EDUCATORS

bcdiatlanta.org



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March Activity Guide

Legacy of Care: Our Earth, Our Future (Ages 0-5)

Spring is a magical time when nature awakens from its winter slumber. Birds return from their migrations, insects become active, and new animal babies emerge. Across cultures and throughout human history, people have observed and celebrated these seasonal changes in wildlife. Indigenous communities have developed deep knowledge about local ecosystems and the behavior of animals during spring. In Japan, the arrival of birds coincides with the cherry blossom season; Mexico celebrates the return of monarch butterflies with festivals; and many cultures mark spring's arrival with celebrations honoring animals and new life.

This activity guide is designed to help children ages 0-5 connect with the vibrant wildlife surrounding us during this special season while honoring diverse cultural perspectives. Through age-appropriate activities, children will develop observation skills, build an appreciation for nature, and foster a sense of stewardship for our environment. Each activity supports developmental milestones while nurturing a child's natural curiosity about the world around them, incorporating stories, language, and traditions from around the world.

- 1) **0-1 Year Olds**
- 2) **1-2 Year Olds**
- 3) **2-3 Year Olds**
- 4) **3-4 Year Olds**
- 5) **4-5 Year Olds**

Ages 0-1

Young babies experience the world primarily through their senses. These activities introduce them to spring wildlife's sights, sounds, and textures in a safe, engaging way, with cultural elements that can be shared across generations.

1 Bird Song Sensory Experience

- **Goal:** Introduce auditory stimulation through natural sounds and cultural music
- **Materials:** [Bird song recordings](#), [traditional lullabies featuring birds](#), soft toy birds, [pictures of birds from different regions](#)
- **Instructions:**
 - Play gentle recordings of bird songs during playtime or quiet moments
 - Include traditional lullabies about birds from various cultures (like "[Arrorro Mi Niño](#)" from Latin America or "[Hutia Te Rito](#)" from New Zealand)
 - Show baby [pictures of birds](#) while they listen, including species from different continents
 - Use soft toy birds to create a multi-sensory experience
 - Describe what they hear in multiple languages: "Listen to the robin singing! / Escucha al petirrojo cantando!"

2 Butterfly Puppet Play

- **Goal:** Develop visual tracking and grasping skills while introducing cultural symbolism.
- **Materials:** Colorful butterfly finger puppets or cutouts on sticks representing species from different regions
- **Instructions:**
 - Hold butterfly puppets about 12 inches from baby's face
 - Slowly move the puppets in different directions
 - Allow baby to reach for and grasp the puppets if interested
 - Share simple phrases about butterflies in different languages
 - For caregivers: mention how butterflies symbolize transformation in many cultures, such as the Hopi butterfly dance or the Mexican association of butterflies with returning ancestors

Continued

3 Nature Texture Board

- **Goal:** Introduce tactile sensations of natural materials from diverse environments
- **Materials:** Sturdy cardboard; safely secured natural items (feathers from different birds, smooth stones, tree bark from local trees)
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a texture board by securely attaching different natural materials to cardboard
 - Include items that represent local wildlife habitats as well as those from other regions
 - Guide baby's hand to touch each texture gently
 - Name each item in multiple languages if possible
 - Share simple phrases about the cultural significance of certain materials

4 Soft Feather Touch

- **Goal:** Develop sensory awareness through texture exploration
- **Materials:** Clean, soft feathers (safe for baby's mouth)
- **Instructions:**
 - Let your baby feel the soft feathers on their hands and cheeks.
 - Describe the texture using simple words like "soft" and "gentle."
 - Let them explore the feathers safely with their hands.

Ages 1-2

Toddlers are beginning to explore their environment more actively. These activities encourage movement, simple identification, and basic interaction with wildlife concepts, incorporating diverse cultural elements.

1 Bird Nest Sensory Bin

- **Goal:** Develop fine motor skills and introduce bird habitat concepts
- **Materials:** Large shallow bin, dried grass, soft twigs, feathers, plastic eggs, pictures of bird nests from around the world
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a sensory bin with nest materials
 - Include [pictures showing different types of nests from around the world](#) (weaver birds in Africa, hummingbirds in South America)
 - Show toddler(s) how birds gather materials
 - Encourage child(ren) to pick up and explore materials
 - Demonstrate making a simple nest shape with the materials
 - Sing simple bird songs from different traditions while playing

2 Bug Movement Game

- **Goal:** Encourage gross motor development through mimicry of insects from diverse regions
- **Materials:** [Pictures of different insects from around the world](#), open space
- **Instructions:**
 - Show toddler pictures of different insects from various continents
 - Demonstrate how each insect moves (butterfly flutters, ant crawls)
 - Share the names of insects in different languages
 - Encourage the child(ren) to move like each insect
 - Use simple phrases like "Buzz like a bee!" or "Crawl like an ant!"
 - For caregivers: mention how insect movement is incorporated into traditional dances in many cultures

Continued

3 Animal Sounds Match

- **Goal:** Connect [wildlife with their sounds](#) and cultural representations
- **Materials:** [Pictures of spring animals](#), recordings of animal sounds, and simple instruments to mimic sounds
- **Instructions:**
 - Show pictures of spring animals (birds, frogs, bees) from different regions
 - Play the corresponding animal sound
 - Help toddler(s) match the sound to the picture
 - Share how different languages represent animal sounds (e.g., birds "tweet" in English but "pío pío" in Spanish)
 - Encourage them to imitate the sounds
 - Use simple instruments to create animal sounds as done in various cultural traditions

4 Bird Watching with Binoculars

- **Goal:** Introduce observation skills and nature awareness.
- **Materials:** Toy [binoculars or DIY ones from paper rolls](#)
- **Instructions:**
 - Go outside and use binoculars to "spot" birds.
 - Encourage your child to describe what they see ("Red bird!" "Big wings!").
 - Praise their effort to identify colors and shapes.

Ages 2-3

Children at this age develop language skills and can engage in more complex activities. These experiences build vocabulary and a basic understanding of wildlife behaviors with cultural connections.

1 Bird Watching Window

- **Goal:** Develop observation skills and wildlife awareness across cultures
- **Materials:** [Window bird feeder](#), bird seed, picture cards of common birds with names in multiple languages
- **Instructions:**
 - Set up a simple bird feeder visible from a window
 - Create a daily routine of watching for birds
 - Help the child match visiting birds to picture cards
 - Count the birds and describe their colors and actions
 - Learn bird names in languages represented in your community
 - Share simple facts about how birds are viewed in different cultures (like the crane in Japanese culture or the eagle in many Indigenous North American cultures)

2 Bug-Themed Story Time

- **Goal:** Support language development, cultural awareness, and understanding of insects through diverse literature
- **Materials:** [Culturally diverse books about insects](#) (such as "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "La Oruga Muy Hambrienta," "Anansi the Spider," "The Beetle Alphabet Book," and "Bee: A Peek-Through Picture Book"), Insect puppets or finger puppets, Felt board with insect cutouts, Magnifying glass, Pictures of insects from different regions of the world
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a cozy reading nook with pillows and natural elements like leaves or flowers
 - Introduce the book by discussing the cover and asking what the child already knows about the featured insect
 - Read the story expressively, using different voices for characters and sounds for insect movements
 - Point out details about bugs and ask open-ended questions ("How do you think the ladybug feels?" "What might happen next?")
 - Connect the story to real insects by showing photographs or using the magnifying glass to examine picture details
 - Encourage your child to repeat insect names in multiple languages if the book includes the

Continued

3

Buzzing Bug Friends Matching Game

- **Goal:** Develop early recognition skills and introduce simple insect diversity
- **Materials:** 5-6 pairs of large, colorful insect cards with clear images (butterflies, bees, ladybugs), Small basket or container, Soft toy insects (optional), Simple insect puppet, Sound shaker or bell
- **Instructions:**
 - Sit with your toddler in a comfortable space and introduce the game with an engaging puppet
 - Show each insect card one at a time, naming it clearly: "This is a butterfly/mariposa!"
 - Make simple sounds or movements for each insect (buzz for bees, flutter hands for butterflies)
 - Start with just three matching pairs laid face up
 - Help your child find matching pairs by asking: "Can you find another butterfly?"
 - Celebrate each match with a sound shaker or simple phrase in different languages ("¡Muy bien!" "Good job!" "Wunderbar!")

4

Wildlife Habitat Collage

- **Goal:** Introduce habitat concepts from around the world
- **Materials:** Construction paper, nature magazines with wildlife from different regions, safety scissors, glue sticks
- **Instructions:**
 - Cut out pictures of animals and their habitats from around the world
 - Help the child sort animals into where they live (trees, ground, water)
 - Create a collage showing different wildlife homes from various ecosystems (rainforest, desert, tundra)
 - Label the habitats and animals with simple words in multiple languages
 - Discuss how people in different parts of the world live alongside these animals

Ages 3-4

Preschoolers can engage in more structured activities that build conceptual understanding and encourage deeper exploration of wildlife with cultural connections.

1 Backyard Bug Hunt

- **Goal:** Develop observation and classification skills while respecting all living things
- **Materials:** Bug-catching containers, magnifying glass, bug identification cards, and information about cultural views of insects
- **Instructions:**
 - Discuss how different cultures view insects (like the sacred scarab beetle in Egyptian culture)
 - Demonstrate how to catch and observe insects gently
 - Help child use identification cards to name found insects
 - Count legs, wings, and other features
 - Always release insects where they were found, discussing the value of respect for living things that span cultures.
 - Use descriptive words for insects in different languages.

2 Bird's Nest Engineering

- **Goal:** Understand wildlife adaptations and problem-solving techniques
- **Materials:** Twigs, dried grass, string, mud, paper, feathers, and pictures of bird nests from around the world
- **Instructions:**
 - Show photos of different bird nests from various cultures and environments
 - Discuss how birds build different types of nests based on their environment
 - Share how some cultures (like certain African traditions) have been inspired by bird nest-building techniques in their architecture
 - Challenge the child to build a nest that could hold a plastic egg
 - Test the nest's strength and stability
 - Discuss what worked well and what didn't

Continued

3 Wildlife Feeding Station

- **Goal:** Foster compassion and understanding of animal needs across cultures
- **Materials:** Bug-catching containers, magnifying glass, bug identification cards, and information about cultural views of insects
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a simple feeding station in your yard or balcony
 - Share stories about feeding wildlife from different cultures (like the tradition of feeding birds in Buddhism or bread crumbs in European folklore)
 - Discuss what different animals might eat in different regions
 - Record which animals visit and when
 - Maintain the station with fresh food and water
 - Learn phrases about caring for animals in different languages

4 Spring Wildlife Journal

- **Goal:** Develop observation and documentation skills using diverse approaches
- **Materials:** Simple notebook, crayons, stickers, and wildlife phrases in different languages
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a wildlife journal with dated pages
 - Incorporate words for animals in different languages
 - Help the child draw or use stickers to record animals seen each day
 - Note where and when animals were spotted
 - Include wildlife counting rhymes from different cultures
 - Review the journal weekly to discuss patterns and favorites
 - Share how different cultures have kept records of animal sightings (from Indigenous tracking to modern citizen science)

Ages 4-5

PreK and Kindergarten-aged children are curious explorers with growing independence. They can follow multi-step instructions and better understand their relationship with the natural world. These simplified activities introduce ecological concepts through hands-on experiences while incorporating diverse cultural perspectives appropriate for their developmental stage.

1 Insect Explorer Adventure

- **Goal:** Develop early math skills, observation, classification, and environmental awareness through playful insect discovery
- **Materials:** Colorful paper or notebook, Crayons or washable markers, Magnifying glass (optional), Bug identification cards with pictures (can be homemade), Construction paper for chart-making, Stickers (optional), Small containers for temporary observation (clear plastic cups with ventilation)
- **Instructions:**
 - Take children on a short "Wonder Walk" around a yard, park, or playground
 - Encourage children to move like different insects (buzz like bees, hop like grasshoppers)
 - Use magnifying glasses to look under leaves and in grass
 - Help children count insects they spot using one-to-one correspondence
 - Ask simple questions: "How many red bugs do you see?" "More ants or butterflies?"
 - For each insect found, help children match it to the identification card
 - Return indoors and help children place stickers or draw simple marks on the chart for each insect type seen
 - Count the totals together using finger-pointing
 - Use comparison language: "We found more ants than butterflies!"

2 Global Bird Café: Cultural Bird Feeders

- **Goal:** Encourage environmental stewardship, develop fine motor skills, and explore how different cultures interact with birds
- **Materials:** Natural materials (pinecones, orange halves, toilet paper tubes, coconut shells), Bird-friendly spreads (sunflower seed butter, vegetable shortening mixed with cornmeal, honey mixed with flour), Birdseed varieties (include information on which birds prefer which seeds), Yarn or twine made from natural fibers, Scissors (child-safe), Tray for containing mess, Pictures of bird feeders from around the world
- **Instructions:**
 - Begin by discussing how people around the world feed and appreciate birds:
 - Set up a creation station with different materials, Layout natural bases and spreads on a tray to contain mess, Pre-cut strings and organize tools for accessibility, Create a visual step-by-step guide with pictures
 - Guide children through construction choices
 - Support scientific thinking by Making predictions about which birds might visit, Forming hypotheses about which feeder design might attract more birds, Create a simple chart to track visitors.

Continued

3 Bug Dance Spectacular

- **Goal:** Develop gross motor skills, creative expression, listening comprehension, and insect awareness through a multisensory movement experience
- **Materials:** Various bug-themed music selections (bee buzzing, cricket chirping, butterfly fluttering sounds), Simple percussion instruments (maracas, drums, rhythm sticks), Colorful scarves or streamers in bug colors (yellow/black for bees, red for ladybugs), Picture cards of different insects
- **Instructions:**
 - Begin gently stretching, asking children to "grow tall like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly."
 - Practice deep breathing like a "ladybug taking flight" or "ant carrying food."
 - Introduce simple bug vocabulary while moving: antennae, wings, thorax, abdomen
 - Show a picture card of an insect and model how that bug might move
 - Guide children through movements for 4-5 different insects:
 - *"Buzz and fly like a busy bee" (fast arm movements with buzzing sounds)*
 - *"Crawl slowly like an ant carrying food" (low movement on hands and knees)*
 - *"Flutter gently like a butterfly" (flowing movements with scarves)*
 - *"Jump like a grasshopper" (small, controlled hops)*
 - *"Curl up like a roly-poly bug" (tucking into a ball)*
 - End with gentle movements, having children slowly wrap themselves in a "cocoon" (sitting and hugging knees)
 - Play soft nature sounds as they rest
 - "Emerge" slowly as butterflies with a gentle stretch

4 Wildlife Detective

- **Goal:** Develop critical thinking about animal evidence using traditional and modern approaches
- **Materials:** Magnifying glass, animal track guides from different regions, plaster of Paris, stories about tracking from different cultures
- **Instructions:**
 - Share tracking techniques from various cultures (like Indigenous tracking methods)
 - Search for evidence of animals (tracks, feathers, nibbled plants)
 - Use guides to identify what animal left the evidence
 - Make plaster casts of any tracks found
 - Create a wildlife detective notebook recording findings
 - Discuss how tracking animals has been important for many cultural traditions
 - Compare traditional knowledge with modern scientific approaches

Conclusion

Through these culturally diverse activities, young children have begun their journey as wildlife explorers and conservationists. They've developed observation skills, learned about different species and their habitats, and built foundations for understanding ecological relationships. By incorporating perspectives from various cultures, children also learn that caring for wildlife is a universal value that connects people across time and place.

These activities honor both scientific understanding and traditional ecological knowledge, showing children that there are many ways to learn about and appreciate the natural world. As they grow, this early connection with nature will foster continued curiosity and care for it.

Remember that children learn best through playful, hands-on experiences, so follow their lead and extend activities based on their interests. Encourage families to share their cultural connections to local wildlife, creating a rich tapestry of understanding that bridges cultures and generations. Each small discovery celebrates spring's renewal and the fantastic wildlife that shares our world.

[Click here for the survey!](#)

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