

What BCPS Parents Need to Know About...

SUMMER SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

FACT: “All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.”

Johns Hopkins University, Center for Summer Learning, 2007

Parents have fun with your family this summer by taking part in the activities below and at the same time you will be helping your child to continue to grow in science:

- Ask your child to observe and describe things in the environment both indoors and outdoors.
- Have your child create a nature notebook. Each day have your child draw the tree as observed and write a description of what the tree looks like. How does the daily weather affect the tree? Have them make a leaf and bark rubbing from the tree. The journal can be kept for a week or throughout the entire summer.
- Blow bubbles using soap solution and discuss what you notice about the bubbles.
- Explore the properties of water by pouring water into different types of containers. Notice that water takes the shape of the container, takes up space, and has weight.
- Look at the sky with your child – day and night. Talk about what you see. Find pictures in the clouds.
- Have your child identify and explore pushes and pulls – carts, bikes, balls, carriages, etc.
- Go on an “Animal Detection Hike.” Have your child learn various ways to find evidence of animals (tracks, fur, egg shells, holes, nests, etc.). Your child can record the evidence that is found and draw conclusions about the animal life based on their new knowledge. If animal tracks are found, you and your child can create animal track prints using plaster of Paris.
- Use objects made from different materials to produce sounds.
- Discuss ways to design an investigation to answer a question. When your child asks “how” or “why,” encourage thinking by finding answers.
- Discuss ways to save energy at home.
- Encourage a hobby like rock collecting.
- Collect weather data (information) over the course of a week. Have your child record the data on a ready-made calendar. The data can include air temperature, rainfall, and general weather conditions. Observations such as clouds or precipitation can be illustrated with a brief written description. This activity can be extended by asking your child to predict the next day’s weather.