

## Theme: Seasons/Nature

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The Learning Triangle is TV that teaches + storybooks + activities—all related to one idea or skill. Parents and educators use the Learning Triangle to help children learn by encouraging them to interact with people and objects around them. Use the information below to create a Learning Triangle using nature as a classroom.

### TV that teaches

*Caillou*: #123—Nature

*Barney & Friends*: #416—Easy, Breezy Day

*Dragon Tales*: #119—Stormy Weather

*Caillou*: #131—Seasons

*Reading Rainbow*: #136—The Life Cycle of the Honeybee

### Storybooks

*A Busy Year* by Leo Lionni

*The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats

*Butterfly Mariposa* by Susan Canizares

*In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming

*When Daddy Took Us Camping* by J. Brillhart



### Activities

1. **Go for a Seasons Walk:** Talk about the weather. Is it getting warmer or colder? Look at trees and plants. Are they budding leaves, are they blooming and flowering, or are they beginning to wither? What season is it? How do you know?
2. **Observe Animals:** Spend time outside watching animals in your neighborhood. Look for insects, squirrels, birds, toads, snakes, etc. Take a few minutes to watch each animal. Talk about how animals adjust to the seasons. Point out a bird building a nest, a squirrel gathering nuts, or a toad burying itself in the leaves or mud. What are the animals doing and why are they doing it?
3. **Nature Journal:** When you return home from a walk, draw a picture of what you saw or write a few words about your adventure in a notebook. Bring home a seedpod, leaf, or flower and glue it on a piece of paper. Use these mementos to create a nature journal.
4. **Which is Your Favorite?:** Talk about which season is your favorite and why. Share a favorite fall, spring, summer, or winter memory with your child.
5. **Clothing Changes:** Talk about the different kinds of clothing that people wear depending upon the season. Ask questions like:
  - What would you wear on a cold day?
  - How about on a warm day?
  - What would you wear to go swimming?
  - How about to play in the snow?
  - What do you do if it's raining outside and you don't want to get wet?

WILL has many resources that support the education of young children. For more information, contact our educational outreach coordinator at **217-333-1070** or e-mail [delaney1@will.uiuc.edu](mailto:delaney1@will.uiuc.edu).

