

Johnson County Library's

BOOKS TO GROW

Kit theme: **EARTHWISE: ECOLOGY**

- Book titles included:

1. **THE GREAT KAPOK TREE** by Lynne Cherry
2. **WHERE ONCE THERE WAS A WOOD** by Denise Fleming
3. **MOTHER EARTH** by Nancy Luenn
4. **FAREWELL TO SHADY GLADE** by Bill Peet
5. **JUST A DREAM** by Chris Van Allsburg

- DVD: **THE EARTH NEEDS YOU**

- CD: **BOUNTIFUL EARTH**



Additional titles available at the Johnson County Library:

WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE SEA by Jeannie Baker

THIS IS OUR EARTH by Laura Lee Benson

THE WAY OF THE WILLOW BRANCH by Emery & Durga Bernhard

THE WORLD THAT JACK BUILT by Ruth Brown

A RIVER RAN WILD by Lynne Cherry

MOTHER EARTH'S COUNTING BOOK by Andrew Clements

MISS RUMPHIUS by Barbara Cooney

RAIN FOREST by Helen Cowcher

RAIN FOREST SECRETS by Arthur Dorros

ONE WORLD by Michael Foreman
BROTHER EAGLE, SISTER SKY by Susan Jeffers

THE SALAMANDER ROOM by Anne Mazer

WERE YOU A WILD DUCK WHERE WOULD YOU GO? By George Mendoza

HOME SWEET HOME by Jean Marzollo

MY GRANDPA AND THE SEA by Katherine Orr

BABY BELUGA by Raffi (also audio)

PUMPKINS by Mary Lyn Ray

HERON STREET by Ann Turner

See the back for activities to help children with these 6 by 6 *Ready to Read* early literacy areas:

Have Fun With Books

Notice Print

Talk, Talk, Talk

Tell Stories

Look for Letters

Take Time to Rhyme

Activity Ideas - EarthWise Ecology

Pine Cone Bird Feeders

Spread wax paper on the table. Place a thin layer of smooth peanut butter on the wax paper. Children roll a pine cone in the peanut butter and then in bird seed. Attach a string to the pine cone and hang in a tree. Tell stories about the birds that come to feed.

From *The Instant Curriculum* by Pam Schiller and Joan Rossano

Birds in the Trees

Let children play-act as birds and trees; some children are trees, some are birds. When the music plays it is good weather, and the birds fly. When the music stops it is bad weather and time for the birds find protection in the trees. (adapted from *The Peaceful Classroom* by Charles A. Smith, PhD.)

Litter Bag

Keep plastic or paper shopping bags. Provide children with markers, crayons, paints and brushes to decorate the bags. Use the bags for litter when you take the children on a “trash” hunt around the school or neighborhood. (adapted from *The Complete Learning Center Book* by Rebecca Isbell)

Sand Play

A sand box outside or sand table inside can give a chance to experiment with different earthscapes. Can they recreate a mountain? River? Valley? Desert? Use lots of words to describe the differences.

Nature Walk Collage

Take a walk with the children and encourage them to collect objects they find; leaves, acorns, pebbles, grass, etc. Help them create a Nature Collage by gluing their found items to firm tagboard or cardboard.

Stone Painting Gather small, smooth stones. With tempera paint, allow children to paint designs and pictures on the stones. As a variation, use crayons to decorate the stones, then place them in the oven on low heat until the crayon melts. (Adapted from *Good Earth Art* by MaryAnn Kohl)

I Live On the Earth

I live on the Earth
(Make a circle with your arms)
In my very own house,
(Put fingers together to form a roof)
That sits on my very own street.
(Place a fist on an opened palm)
I live on the Earth,
(Make a circle with your arms)
High in the sky, (Point to the sky)
Circling round and round round,
(Turn around and around)
I live on the Earth,
(Make a circle with your arms)
In my very own house,
(Put fingers together to form a roof)
That sits upon the ground. (Sit down)

From *The Busy Classroom* by Patty Claycomb

Let's Share the Earth

Let's share the earth with the animals,
Let's give them all a home.
Let's leave some trees to nest in,
Let's leave some space to roam.
Let's share the earth with the animals,
Let's make a better land.
Let's clean up all our litter,
Let's give the world a hand.

From *1001 Rhymes & Fingerplays* by Jean Warren



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