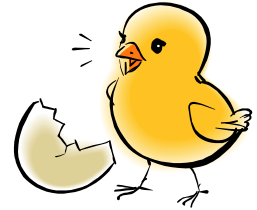


Preschool Programs

2026-2027

Available from
The Cass County Conservation Board
712-769-2372



The programs listed below are sponsored by the Cass County Conservation Board and will actively involve your three, four, and five-year-olds in a fun, educational way. **A minimum of 10 children is required.** If you would like a program please call or email Lora Kanning at the Cass County Conservation Board.

Programs are provided free of charge. Monthly preschool programs can begin as early as September or October and go through the month of May (with the exception of April). I have aligned some of my programs to QPPS/NAEYC standards. The second year rotation is on the second page with the suggested months of visit if those fit your curriculum better or for your 3 year old preschool class. **Legend/Key**

Program Name **If it is GREEN like this it can be taught outside!** **Description.**

Extra Resources!! We have many items to loan out to your classroom; don't be afraid to ask if I have something! We have bulletin board kits on the following topics: Dinosaurs, Life Cycles, Recycling, Rocks and Bugs. We have stamps, puzzles, and posters on these topics and many more.

Stream and Lake Play Mats: 3' by 6' stream and lake mats are available. Lake Mat will be housed at the Outdoor Educational classroom, you can get it out and play with it as part of your experience there. The stream mat will be available to check out to use in your classroom. Each mat is dry erase (yes they can draw on it), comes with (appropriate) fish and other wildlife to help them build the habitat. Would be great as a center or arrival activity.

October- Backbone Bonanza- Children will learn about vertebrates and some characteristics that distinguish them! We read **“Mixed-Up Chameleon”** and “vertebrate safari” hike is available. Many extensions into crafts, music and snacks are available. QPPS 2.7-2.11/ NAEYC 2.A.07-12, QPPS 2.13-16/ NAEYC 2.C.03-04 D 03-04 IELS Science Standard 2.I Compares and categorizes living and non-living things based on observable characteristics. Creative Arts Standard 1 Participates in a variety of art related experiences. Standard 2 Participates in a variety of rhythm, music, and movement experiences.

November- An “Ant”venture- Many of us don't pay attention to the little critters until they find a way into our homes... but ants are truly remarkable! We have NEW songs, take home activities, and finish with the children role-playing different ant jobs. Snack recipe available. QPPS 2.7-2.11/ NAEYC 2.A.07-12, QPPS 2.13-16/ NAEYC 2.C.03-04 D 03-04 IELS Science Standard 2.K Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs. Creative Arts Standard 3 Engages in a variety of dramatic play experiences.

December- Opossum “Tales”-Do opossums really hang upside down? Learn about this and more as your students become the parents of 13 baby opossums EACH! Can they take care of them without losing any from their pouches, as they suddenly play dead??? IELS Science Standard 2 Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs. Mathematics Standard 2 Develops an understanding of number sense. Creative Arts Standard 3 Engages in a variety of dramatic play experiences. Physical Well-being and Motor Development Standard 3 Develops small motor skills.



January-The Mitten- This is a wonderful story that tells how a mitten became a home for all sorts of animals during the cold winter months. I have made animal masks for this program, which will allow all of your students to become a character in the book as they all try to fit inside of the “mitten”. IELS Science Standard 2.I Compares and categorizes living and non-living things based on observable characteristics. Communication, Language and Emergent Literacy Standard 3.T Retells familiar stories with key events using simple sequencing terms: a First b. Then c. Next Creative Arts Standard 3 Engages in a variety of dramatic play experiences.

February- Lucky Ladybugs!-We’ll read *A Ladybug’s Life*, make a ladybug craft and then the children will get to become ladybugs as we play “Aphid Munch”. IELS Science Standard 2.K Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs. Creative Arts Standard 1 Participates in a variety of art-related experiences. Creative Arts Standard 3 Engages in a variety of dramatic play experiences.

March-Chicken’s aren’t the Only Ones- We will read this book as children discover which other animals lay eggs. They will then have the opportunity to look around the room for eggs. Can they figure out what laid the egg? IELS Science Standard 2 Compares and categorizes living and non-living things based on observable characteristics. Physical Well-Being and Motor Development Standard 3 Develops small motor skills.

April-NO PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS OFFERED THIS MONTH

May -“I Spy” Nature Walk &/or Animal Surprises-Venture outdoors and look for signs of the season as we “spy” different things in nature. IELS Science Standard 1 Observes, investigates, and describes objects, materials and other physical science phenomena in the classroom and the outdoor environment.

Second year or Three year old rotation!

October- Touching Trees- Explore leaves and trees on a hike (indoor options available, including music and math.) We will also read **Leaf Man**, and use leaves in a math activity. I can change it so you can have this program in both 4yr old and 3yr old preschool. Crafts, songs, iPad app, and snack recipes are available. QPPS 2.7-2.11/ NAEYC 2.A.07-12, QPPS 2.13-16/ NAEYC 2.C.03-04 D 03-04 IELS Science Standard 1.N Observes, investigates, and describes objects, materials and other physical science phenomena in the classroom and outdoor environments. Mathematics Standard 2.O Recognize and organize sets based on multiple attributes. Creative Arts Standard 2 Participates in a variety of rhythm, music, and movement experiences.

November – Tails- We will read “**Why Animals Have Tails.**” Students will see tails up close and personal, and investigate how animals use their tails! Our activity will be a “tail” craft. IELS Science Standard 2.K Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs. Creative Arts Standard 1 Participates in a variety of art related experiences.

December- Tracks- Is based on the book **Who’s Tracks are These?** We will look at different tracks and how to tell them. Activities- song, track rubbing kit, track art, matching sheets, or hike if there is snow, there is also an optional pre-visit activity. Snack Recipe available. QPPS 2.7-2.11/ NAEYC 2.A.07-12, QPPS 2.13-16/ NAEYC 2.C.03-04 D 03-04 IELS Science Standard 1.N Observes, investigates, and describes

objects, materials and other physical science phenomena in the classroom and outdoor environments. Creative Arts Standard Q.a Relates artwork to what is happening in the environment. Mathematics Standard 3 Develops the ability to recognize and understand patterns.

January - Winter Adaptations- We will read **When Winter Comes** and talk about how many animals have winter adaptations and how they might have gotten them. Our activity will involve a SLURP critter which we have to protect from the cold to survive. IELS Science Standard 1.N Observes, investigates, and describes objects, materials and other physical science phenomena in the classroom and the outdoor environment. Standard 2.K Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs.

February- Owl Moon- We will read this wonderful story, sing a song, and sign language about story in the book. We will also discuss owl mommies and optional owl activity- Owl Puppet craft or owl paper plate craft! IELS Science Standard 2 Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs. Creative Arts Standard 1.P Creates two-and three-dimensional works of art while experimenting with color, line, shape, form, texture, and space. Creative Arts standard 2 Participates in a variety of rhythm, music, and movement.

March- Terrific Turtles- We will read the story **Box Turtle at Long Pond**. Learn all about turtles here in Cass County. Real turtle visit is available with this program, and optional turtle snack! IELS Science Standard 2 Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs.

May- Skunks- Learn all about this lonely species! Read **“Skunk at Hemlock Circle”**, and discover Iowa’s 2 species: striped and spotted. IELS Science Standard 2.I Compares and categorizes living and non-living based on observable characteristics.

Additional offerings:

Animal Helpers- Learn all about Wildlife rehabilitators and Wildlife veterinarians. We talk about giving animals space and those expectations when we are outdoors. IELS Social Development and Social Studies Standard 2.P Recognizes a variety of jobs and how they impact the environment.

Animal Sounds- After reading an animal sounds book. We will explore animal sounds with my player and CD. We will also play an animal matching game by just using the animal sounds. IELS Science Standard 2.I Compares and categorizes living and non-living based on observable characteristics.

5 Senses – We will read “How Animals Use Their Senses” book. We will play a senses guessing game and talk about animals using their senses. IELS Science Standard 1.M Uses observational tools to extend the five senses.

Bee Mine- We will read “Bee Dance.” We will see and talk like bees and talk all about bees making honey. IELS Science Standard 2.K Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things to make guesses about their needs.

Bison- We will read “Buddy Bison’s Yellowstone Adventure”. We will see if our classroom can fit a bison! A lot of hands on bison artifacts brought into the classroom. IELS Science Standard 2.K Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs.

Camping- We will read “When we go camping” book. Tips on exploring nature safely, fire safety and even cooking are topics we can touch on! IELS Science Standard 2.J Observes, predicts, and ask questions to understand how things work.

Nature’s colors and/or Collections- Colors and camouflage even talking about collecting things. (like rocks, leaves, and seeds) Also, talking about being respectful when outdoors. Can be an outdoor hike looking for colors. With advance notice we can use nature as art (mandalas, patterns etc). IELS Science Standard 1.N Observes, investigates and describes objects, materials and other physical science phenomena in the classroom and outdoor environments. Creative Arts Standard 1 Participates in a variety of art-related experiences.

Recycling! We will read a recycling book. We will talk about recycling here in school and at home. We will practice recycling in classroom. Additional activities are available. IELS Science Standard 1.J Asks questions about their environment.

Swans- Learn all about our visiting Trumpeter Swans. Optional field trip to view our wintering swans. IELS Science Standard 2.K Uses observations from investigations to notice similarities and differences in living things and to make guesses about their needs.

Very Busy Spider – We will read the famous Eric Carle book. We will talk about how spiders are not insects. IELS Science Standard Compares and categorizes living and non-living things based on observable characteristics.

What is WILD??- We will read “A Day in the Life” including felt board figures that act out the story and learn what makes an animal WILD! Craft and snack recipes are available. QPPS 2.7-2.11/ NAEYC 2.A.07-12, QPPS 2.13-16/ NAEYC 2.C.03-04 D 03-04 IELS Science Standard 2.I Compares and categorizes living and non-living based on observable characteristics. Communication, Language and Emergent Literacy Standard 3.R With support, may be able to tell two key events from a story or may act out a story with pictures or props.

Wiggling Worms- Children will learn about and observe worms. Worms can be provided to the classroom if interested in “caring” for them for a specified time. Crafts, songs, and snack recipes are available. QPPS 2.7-2.11/ NAEYC 2.A.07-12, QPPS 2.13-16/ NAEYC 2.C.03-04 D 03-04 IELS Science Standard 1.N Observes, investigates, and describes objects materials and other physical science phenomena in the classroom and the outdoor environment. Standard 2 Uses reasoning to make sense of information from discoveries and investigations.

