



# KinderTown Summer Camp: The Great Outdoors

July 24<sup>th</sup>–July 30<sup>th</sup>  
Focus: Art, Math, Science



## Overview

### Family Activity

- 🌿 **Composting Project:** Start a family compost project to learn about nature, the life cycle of a plant, and how to protect the environment through recycling. Learn about the benefits of composting at home and how to get started (either outdoors or indoors) by visiting <http://www2.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home> (*Science*)

### Pre-Kindergarten – Early Elementary Activities

- 🌿 **Lil' Investigators:** Introduce the magnifying glass and have your camper look at weeds, flowers, insects, tree bark, leaves, soil, stones, etc. To extend this discovery activity, provide a shatterproof mirror to explore nature from a new perspective. (*Science*)
- 🌿 **Mud Soup:** Gather several containers, shovels, and spoons. Fill a large container about 1/3 full with water. Add soil, leaves, small sticks, clover, weeds, small stones, and other natural items you find together. Observe and discuss what happens as the items are placed into the water. Stir the mixture well and let your camper use his imagination as he engages in pretend play with his mud soup. (*Math and Science*)
- 🌿 **Colors in Nature:** Encourage your camper to look more closely at nature's palette. Use leftover paint chips from a home improvement project to try to match the colors on them with something in nature. Alternatively, you can make your own colored chips using crayons, markers, or colored pencils on index cards. How many different shades of green or brown can your camper find? Can he find all the colors of the rainbow? (*Art and Science*)


### Elementary Activities

- 🌿 **Nature Photo Hunt:** Take a variety of nature photos in your backyard, garden, or park. Give the stack of photos to your camper. Have him go on a scavenger hunt to find where the object is located. For an extra challenge, take the pictures from a variety of angles (birds' eye view, ground level, hip level, etc.). (*Art and Science*)
- 🌿 **Sound Mapping:** Locate a safe, comfortable outdoor space where your camper can sit quietly. Have him close his eyes and listen to the sounds around him for several minutes. Using a pencil and paper ask him to make a "sound map." Have him put an X or stick figure in the middle of the page to represent his location and then use pictures or words to show the locations of the sounds around him. Encourage him to use lines to show directions and distances. Review his sound map together by asking: Which sounds did you like most? Least? What else did you hear? What things might have caused the sounds you heard? (*Science*)
- 🌿 **Explore Puddles:** Find areas where water gathers in puddles in your yard or neighborhood. After a rainy day, have your camper search for puddles that are fairly large and deep. Have your camper draw a picture and describe the puddles. Return to those puddles for several days to observe any changes. Ask your camper to consider the following: Has any life taken hold in the rain puddles? What signs of life, plant and animal, can he find? What is the temperature of the puddle? What is the diameter of the puddle? What is the depth of the puddle? How long does the puddle last? Why does a puddle disappear? (*Science*)

### Upper Elementary Activities

- 🌿 **Natural Play:** Fresh flowers can be pressed in the middle of any heavy book. First, lay three sheets of paper into the book and place the flowers on top of them. The flowers can be arranged face up or down. Then, put three more sheets of paper over the flowers and firmly close the book. Placing another book on top will help the process. It takes approximately two to four weeks to successfully press flowers. Leaves can also be pressed inside books. For a second project, gather flowers, rocks, leaves, twigs, and other items found in nature. Rub the items across a piece of paper and observe the colored lines that are left behind. (*Art and Science*)
- 🌿 **Act out a Tree:** Discover more about trees by researching the following tree parts: roots, leaves, heartwood, xylem, cambium, phloem, and outer bark. Then have your camper create his own actions, song, chant, or skit to represent the structure and function of the different tree parts he researched. (*Science*)
- 🌿 **Bird Watching:** Pick one kind of bird that you see regularly in your neighborhood and to observe and research to learn more about its color, size, bill shape, body shape, wing shape, eye color, feather shape/design, flight pattern, unique habits, bird songs/calls, nesting site and materials, food details, and other details you would like to learn more about it. To get started, visit <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search> (*Science*)

## Composting

 Post a photo on social media with **#KToutside** of your composting pile.




## Mud Soup

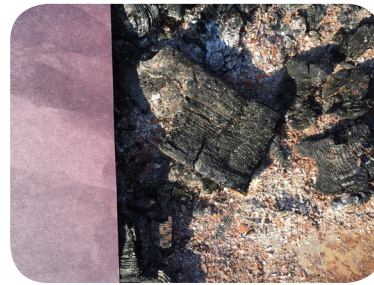
 Post a photo on social media with **#KToutside** of your mud soup.






## Colors in Nature

 Post a photo on social media with **#KToutside** of your colors in nature.



## Nature Photo Hunt

 Post a photo on social media with **#KToutside** of your nature photo hunt.

