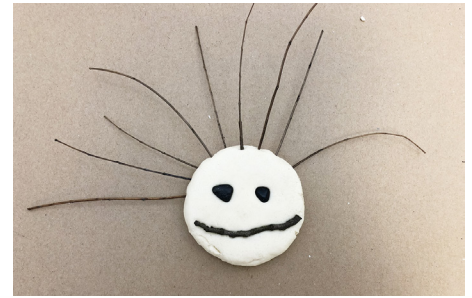


Sticks and Stones Creativity



Ask your toddler to make a face with playdough, sticks and stones. Even better, show him how to make a mud pie man!

There is a world of natural resources outdoors. Playing with those elements – from the woods, park or your own backyard – helps children develop a love of nature. When children appreciate the beauty of nature, they become caretakers of it.

We can't always take off to the woods to appreciate Mother Nature. Teach your children to treat her gently. She won't mind if you bring home a few small pieces.

Sort out the different elements and talk about what they are.

- What are their names?
- What are they made of?
- Where did they come from?
- Do they grow on trees?
- Do they come from the water, a creek or forest?
- Do they need water? Light? Soil? Darkness?

Parents may have to do a little research, but that's a bonus activity to share.

Go outside and play!



Your preschooler may make a nature scene from collected elements of nature. Imagination turns "trash" into treasure. Talk about his or her creation.



Help your toddler set up a pie plate jungle made from nature's own supply closet. Let your child do the arranging!

**Don't forget to
Get Muddy with Your Buddy!
Here's how.**



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**See our outdoor resource pages
for more fun activities for
discovering nature.**

[Click here to visit our Resource Library.](#) You'll find activities and tips to help you prepare your child for life.

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