**Babies Play** - Give your baby two different toys to hold or touch. Talk about how the toys are similar. Are they soft, colorful, wooden, fluffy, hard, noisy, etc.?

**Toddlers Play** - Show your toddler five objects. Hide them in different locations. Ask your child to find the objects. Count them together to make sure all five were found.

**Preschoolers Play** - Draw some shapes. Tell your child the shapes’ name, talk about the shapes, and have fun deciding what the shapes could become; a circle pizza, a rectangle robot. Use crayons or markers to transform the shapes into something new.

**Kindergarteners Play** - Play a board game that requires players to roll a dice and count their moves. Great practice for counting, recognizing numbers, and taking turns!

**Grade School Kids Play** - Build a structure with sticks, boxes, or blocks. Encourage your child to start again when their structure falls down. Ask your child to explain what they think is important for building a strong and tall structure.

**Babies Explore** - Give your baby containers to play with during bath time. Fill and pour. Talk about full and empty containers.

**Toddlers Explore** - Let your toddler play with different size containers. Which one is larger? Explore arranging the different containers from smallest to largest.

**Preschoolers Explore** - Laundry time? Have your child explore sorting the laundry by color, size, type of clothing, person the clothing belongs to, or by pairing socks.

**Kindergarteners Explore** - Give your child some yarn and ask them to make different shapes with it. How many shapes can they make? Ask them to say the shape names?

**Grade School Kids Explore** - Explore the meaning of the equal sign. What does it mean? The quantity on one side of the sign must be the same as the quantity on the other side of the sign. 19 = 12 + 7 and 9 + 2 = 5 + 6 These are equal!
# NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

**Activity:**

1. Time to go outside (in your yard or a walk around your neighborhood)
   - Look for the following items:
     - 3 different shaped leaves
     - Something yellow
     - Something that crawls
     - Something that flies
     - 2 different colored rocks
     - Something that grows and is green
     - A spider’s web
     - Some water
     - Something that is round
     - 2 different things in the sky
   - When you find something from the list, write what it is on a small piece of paper.

2. Sort the items you found into groups based on what they have that is the same. Share what the objects in the groups have that are similar. Now group the items into different categories.

3. Categorize the items you found into what you think is “living” and “non-living?” How did you determine if the object was alive or not alive?

4. Count how many objects you found that were living and non-living and create a graph.

5. Create your own scavenger hunt!

**Optional Technology Connections:**

- Take picture of objects you find during your scavenger hunt!
- Use the phone app “iNaturalist” to identify the different plants, bugs, and other critters you find.
- Play a sorting game: tinyurl.com/sortingsong
- Read-aloud of the book “What’s Alive?” tinyurl.com/whatisalive
- Online bar graph tinyurl.com/onlinebargraph
- Create a Google document to share your scavenger hunt with friends

Optional: Go to this link to print a “STEM journal” to record your observations and questions.

tinyurl.com/STEMJournal3

For more resources or support, contact
Jan Dueck, FCSS STEM Director – jdueck@foe.org
or visit our website: stem.fcoe.org