

# Children Discovering Nature

## Program Information

### Explore

*Children Discovering Nature* is a two-session educational program in which students learn about local flora, fauna, and habitats through hands-on activities in the classroom and field.

### Educate

First, a naturalist educator visits your classroom with exciting science activities that complement your curriculum and prepare students for a field trip.

### Enrich

The following week, your class visits the Durango Nature Center for a half-day educational hike. Trained volunteer naturalists guide small groups through a variety of habitats, engaging students with activities, science games, and guided explorations.



### Durango Nature Studies

Established in 1994, Durango Nature Studies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization specializing in hands-on, outdoor science, nature, and environmental education.

Approximately 3,000 students participate in *Children Discovering Nature* every year.

For program availability and registration info, visit [www.durangonaturestudies.org](http://www.durangonaturestudies.org)

**Durango Nature Studies curriculum correlates with State and National Education Standards.**

Suggested Grade Level	PK-K	1	2	3	4	5
5 Senses Discovery	●					
Plants Are Producers		●	✓	✓		
Insect Investigations		✓	●	✓		
The Watery World				●	✓	
Animal Tales					●	✓
Home Sweet Habitat					✓	●

✓ Program appropriate for suggested grade level.  
 ● Program correlates to FOSS science units taught at this grade level by Durango District 9-R educators.



### Pre-K & Kindergarten “5 Senses Discovery”

**In the Classroom** - Students practice observation skills, review the five senses, and make comparisons between animals and humans.

**At the Nature Center** - Children use 5 senses to explore plants, animals, soil, and water. Games, stories, and fun abound for our youngest naturalists!



### Grade 3 “The Watery World”

**In the Classroom** - Students focus on the importance of water, the limited amount of it, and explore how it moves through the water cycle.

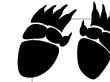
**At the Nature Center** - Students discover water’s role in local habitats and learn about river and pond life. In warm weather and low-water periods, safe wading in the Florida River is permitted.



### Grade 1 “Plants Are Producers”

**In the Classroom** - First graders are introduced to flower anatomy, pollination and seed production, and the role of plants in human life.

**At the Nature Center** - Students search for seeds, roots, and shoots, and look closely at plants to understand their life cycles and unique individual characteristics.



### Grade 4 “Animal Tales”

**In the Classroom** - Students investigate local animals using signs and clues to figure out who’s been where and what they’ve been up to.

**At the Nature Center** - Students are introduced to animal signs, food webs and predator-prey concepts. Investigations may include the relationships between animals and plants.



### Grade 2 “Insect Investigations”

**In the Classroom** - Second graders study insect life cycles, insect anatomy, and their amazing worldwide and local diversity.

**At the Nature Center** - Students capture and observe insects, learn about insect habits and homes, and discover the vital role they play in the natural world.



### Grade 5 “Home Sweet Habitat”

**In the Classroom** - Fifth graders are introduced to components of habitat (food, water, shelter, space) and apply them to the needs of local animals.

**At the Nature Center** - Students experience desert woodland, sagebrush, meadow, and aquatic habitats and explore the ecological roles of local plants and animals.