

Dear Dad:

A twist on an old classic, a nature scavenger hunt is the perfect way to enjoy a sunny day and explore the natural beauty of the outdoors at the same time. Children can spend time with just you, or you can invite other family members or some of your child's friends. You can even turn the nature scavenger hunt into a friendly competition. Either way, a nature scavenger hunt is an enjoyable outdoor activity that can be done in any season.



What You Need

A list of items to collect (You can make a simple list with pictures of the things you have to find, e.g., a rock, a stick, a leaf.)

A shopping bag, paper sack or small basket

What To Do

Take a walk through your neighbourhood and search for the items on your nature scavenger hunt list, instructing your child to put the items he/she finds into the bag. (You will need to help if there are no pictures on your list. You should also help with the looking by giving hints or clues; e.g. "You're getting warmer, etc.") If several children are participating, you may want to use your backyard or other secure location for this activity in order to allow participants more freedom to safely explore.

When you think your child may be losing interest or after you have collected a number of items from the list, choose a place where you can sit down to examine and share your findings. It is also fun to bring along a nature-related surprise for your child. A butterfly net or some gummy worms are sure to put a smile on his/her face!

Tips and Suggestions

- Talk about your walk and the items your child found. Ask your child to hold up an item from their sack and describe it. Encourage them to describe the color, weight, size, how it feels, smells, etc. Help them whenever necessary with the descriptions. If the nature scavenger hunt has been a group activity, pass the items around to each child so they can have a closer look.
- Take a magnifying glass with you so you can closely examine your treasures.
- Try this activity as a way to celebrate each new season (even winter!)

Sincerely,